

2025

Traveler's Guide to the Firearm Laws of the Fifty States



IN OUR
29th
YEAR

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Twenty-ninth Edition -- January, 2025

"Serving America's Gun Owners since 1996"

The following changes in state firearm laws were enacted by the various state legislatures during the 2024 calendar year. These changes, along with updates to the reciprocity, contact information & traveler's checklist coverage constitute the primary differences between the 28th and 29th editions. Owners of past editions will note that most state pages have been revised to provide more in-depth information in an easier to understand format.

We hope readers will benefit from the following text. Travel with firearms is as much a necessity as a guaranteed right. Knowing how to legally carry your guns is as essential to safe travel as a good road atlas.

California: court suspends enforcement of carry prohibitions in selected areas; "safe storage" of all unattended firearms required after 1/1/26

Colorado: guns left in unattended vehicles must be locked in hard-sided cases; gun carry prohibited in multiple public areas

Connecticut: costs and requirements for non-resident permits increase

Delaware: gun carry on college campuses prohibited w/exceptions; permit required for handgun purchases

Hawaii: ammunition possession prohibited to persons under 21; court suspends Hawaii's ban on gun carry at banks

Idaho: private parties holding events on public property may not restrict gun carry by participants – (some exceptions)

Illinois: court overturns public transit carry ban, court only applies ruling to the participants in the case

Indiana: General Assembly and staff members allowed to carry w/o permits at the state capitol

Iowa: preemption law further strengthened w/enhanced penalties for violators

Louisiana: permitless carry enacted; preemption law enhanced; restaurant carry clarified; self-defense law strengthened

Maryland: court lifts carry ban in several "gun free" zones

Massachusetts: gun registration required for all residents & nonresidents; new legal exemptions for travelers

Minnesota: state enacts law expanding definition of "trigger activators"

Nebraska: K-12 school boards may authorize security officers to carry guns

New Hampshire: employers may not prevent employees from keeping guns in their cars; court confirms "no duty to retreat" rule

New Jersey: courts rules that New Jersey must accept all aspects of federal law governing carry by retired LEOs

New Mexico: carry within 100 feet of a polling place prohibited to all non-permittees; governor's order prohibiting carry in Albuquerque's public parks struck down by court

New York: court strikes down "consent rule" for private property (subject to change by higher court)

Pennsylvania: state supreme court rules preemption law is constitutional

Rhode Island: unattended firearms (including those left in vehicles) must be secured in locked containers

South Carolina: permitless carry enacted; duty to immediately inform during traffic stop repealed; open carry protected by statute

South Dakota: enhanced permittees granted qualified carry privileges at K-12 schools

Tennessee: pepper spray & stun gun possession by adults allowed at K-12 schools and colleges

Vermont: carry prohibited at polling places

Washington: carry by non-permittees prohibited in certain public areas

Houses of Worship: new section in Travelers Checklist detailing "carry rules" for churches, mosques and temples

Red Flag Laws: new graphic icon indicates which states have Emergency Protection Order Laws

Federal: Supreme Court strikes down federal bump stock ban (individual state bans remain in effect)

Reciprocity: availability of updates at www.gunlawguide.com for conditional reciprocity states

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IMPORTANT: This guide should not be used as legal advice for a specific situation involving the traveler and the court system. Such advice should be limited to an attorney in the jurisdiction where the unfortunate incident arises. Although an attorney with experience in firearm laws prepared this guide, the information provided within is of a general nature and is accurate as of the date of publication. Readers should consult proper counsel when confronted with complex questions of law. **Reproduction or copying of any portion of this text is a violation of U.S. copyright law per Title 17 U.S.C. and is hereby prohibited. Violators will be subject to civil and criminal penalties that could result in high fines and/or imprisonment.**

How to Use this Guide

Firearm laws can be quite intimidating when traveling outside one's own state. Many horror stories exist in which the nonresident traveler is arrested on a felony charge for a violation that wouldn't qualify as a misdemeanor in the traveler's home state. One such story occurred several years ago on the New Jersey turnpike. A businessman from North Carolina was traveling to Maine via New Jersey when he was stopped by a New Jersey State trooper for a speeding violation. During the routine questioning, the trooper asked the North Carolina man if he had any firearms in the vehicle. Having a concealed carry permit from North Carolina, the traveler assumed he was operating well within the law. He told the trooper that he had a Glock 19 in his briefcase that he was licensed to carry and would be more than happy to allow the trooper to inspect it. Before the traveler could utter another word, the trooper drew his sidearm, pointed it at the traveler and began shouting at the man to exit the vehicle at once with his hands in the air. The stunned businessman, who had never had so much as a parking ticket, did as the officer demanded. He soon found himself spread eagle on the ground while the agitated trooper called for assistance. In the days after his arrest, the traveler was charged with a felony and spent three days in a Newark jail. He was eventually placed in a diversion program while the felony charge was pled down to a misdemeanor. But if the traveler had not possessed such an exemplary prior record, he may have faced the original felony and prison time. In traveling through New Jersey, the traveler failed to take into account the radical difference in legal firearms carry from his native state of North Carolina.

This guide will prevent such an incident by providing an outline of the legal pitfalls a traveler may encounter while carrying his firearms from state to state. Beginning with Alabama and continuing in alphabetical order through Wyoming, each state is afforded one page of explanation pertaining to the firearm laws most relevant to the traveler. The District of Columbia, Canada and Mexico are also covered. A bar graph showing how each state is rated for its treatment of firearms is displayed in the top margin of each page. Any change in firearms freedom from the previous year is noted by a (+) or (-) as well as the reason behind the change. When no change has occurred, a short phrase summarizing why the state has its current rating is provided. Vehicle carry, concealed carry and most other laws governing possession of all firearm types are covered in a user-friendly format for each state.

Reciprocity and Recognition

Many states with concealed carry licensing laws will recognize the out-of-state carry permits of travelers under certain conditions. Some of these states provide universal or "automatic" recognition for any foreign state's permits. These states will recognize any valid, out-of-state permit to carry a firearm regardless of bureaucratic interpretation. Other states will qualify their recognition of a foreign state's permits on the foreign state recognizing the permits of the host state or having issuance standards which are similar to the standards of the host state. Recognition of permits in these states is often at the discretion of the attorney general or state police. Such discretion indicates the potential for inconsistency. Travelers journeying to these states should verify the status of their out-of-state permits if they intend to use their permits for firearms carry. An up-to-date list is provided on p. 65 with the reciprocity status of the conditional states at the time of printing. Travelers may also further confirm the status of the states they are visiting by contacting any one of the official state agencies listed on p. 63 or by viewing updates to this list at www.gunlawguide.com. Some states modify their reciprocity lists without warning. So verification is always a good idea. Readers of the print version may use the map on the inside back cover to color code the states where their permits are recognized.

An issue that is fast becoming a problem for travelers is that of non-resident permits. More and more states are issuing permits to persons who are not residents of the issuing state. And some states that do not issue permits to nonresidents will make special exception for military personnel stationed in the state. This has been of immense benefit to citizens living in restrictive states such as New Jersey who sometimes find it almost impossible to acquire in-state permits. But the downside has been a number of states that are refusing to recognize out-of-state permits that are issued to persons who are not residents of the issuing state. Various reasons are given as to why this is being done. None of these explanations really answer the question as to why a non-resident, who passes through the same background checks as a resident, is less qualified for recognition than a resident. The bottom line for the traveler is that this can

be a sticky wicket. When checking the recognition status of your permit, be sure to note which states do not honor non-resident permits. These states are set apart on p.65-67 with a star (*). States that do not recognize out-of-state permits held by their own residents are underlined on those same pages.

When carrying concealed outside of one's vehicle in a state that provides reciprocity, the traveler carries subject to the restrictions imposed on concealed carry in that state. Most states only issue licenses for handgun carry. States that allow other weapons to be carried are covered in the Traveler's Checklist. So travelers should be aware of which weapons may be carried with a permit before carrying anything other than a handgun. Persons should also have immediate possession of their carry permits and watch for postings that prohibit carry in certain areas such as public parks and government buildings.

Concealed vs. Plain View

The meaning of "concealed vs. plain view" might vary from state to state depending on how the statutes and case law of a particular state define them. Generally, however, concealed includes readily accessible firearms that are "hidden from ordinary observation on or about one's person." While in a vehicle, this definition would almost always include under one's outer clothing or in a closed container such as a purse or gym bag that is actually carried by the person. Many states also regard having a hidden firearm within arms reach to be carrying concealed. This would include glove compartment, console box and seat pocket containment.

Plain view refers to firearms that are visible from outside the vehicle and is utilized primarily while the vehicle is occupied and the owner wants immediate access to his firearms for personal defense. In a holster or sling on the vehicle's dashboard, passenger's seat or gun rack is acceptable in most states that mandate plain view carry. Travelers carrying firearms in plain view may find it prudent to secure their weapons in a trunk or rear storage area when they are not occupying the vehicle. All states which allow plain view passenger compartment carry allow cased and unloaded trunk transport as well.

Important Terms Defined

Standard firearms & ammo refers to the possession or sale of "non-military pattern" handguns & long guns as well as commercially available ammunition common to most firearms. Some states will not permit mere ownership of these items without a permit and may go as far as to require a license to simply possess them in your own home. If a state requires a license, that detail is noted. Also, any relevant restrictions affecting the traveler are mentioned. But restrictions affecting items uncommon to the travelers (ie. flechette rounds, armor-piercing steel core ammo, exploding rounds, etc.) are not covered.

Semi-auto & high capacity magazines refer to military-pattern weapons and magazines capable of holding more than 10 rounds of ammo. Some states will prohibit certain semi-automatics based solely on their appearance. And those same states may also ban magazines over 10 shots.

Machine guns & suppressors refers to such items as are owned under the relevant portions of the National Firearms Act. "Bump Stocks" are devices that simulate full-auto fire on semi-auto rifles.

Vehicle Carry for non-permittees refers to vehicle carry by persons *without* recognized permits. Most states allow persons with recognized permits to carry handguns anywhere in the vehicle. Specific exceptions are noted in the text. Persons without permits must follow certain rules for vehicle carry.

Posted refers to businesses or properties that post signs prohibiting gun carry on their premises.

Permittee and **non-permittee** are used throughout the Guide. A permittee is a person who possesses a carry permit that is recognized in the state being discussed. A non-permittee is a person who does not possess a recognized permit in that state. Unless otherwise noted, these terms only include *non-enhanced* permits. *Enhanced* permits are only covered by specific reference.

Securely encased refers to firearms that are in closed commercial gun cases which are latched, but not necessarily locked, in place. "Securely encased" does not include firearms in cases not designed to hold guns. Purses, gym bags and briefcases do not qualify as securely encased containers. But hard plastic cases manufactured specifically for gun transport would be legitimate.

Constitutional Carry refers to states that allow some form of "on foot" concealed carry without a permit. And while these "permitless carry" states may *appear* to provide a universal allowance for the right, prohibited areas are just as enforceable for the permitless carrier as they are for the permittee.

Weapons allowed for licensed carry covers which weapons a particular state allows a person to carry under the authority of his permit. Most states limit this category to handguns only. But some states, such as Kentucky, allow any lawful deadly weapon.

State Parks covers handgun carry in bonafide state parks. Many states have carved out exceptions to general gun prohibitions for concealed handguns but still prohibit open carry and loaded long gun possession. As a rule, if a state allows concealed carry by qualified persons, it will also allow those same persons to keep their long guns cased and unloaded in their vehicles.

Restaurants serving alcohol is a section limited to specific parameters. Restaurants are eating establishments such as Applebees or Fridays that serve alcohol but produce most of their income from the sale of food. The term would not include “Joe’s Corner Bar” that may serve pizzas and pretzels but is primarily a “watering hole” for those wishing to imbibe. If the Guide indicates that qualified persons may carry in restaurants it means they may carry concealed, loaded handguns if they do not consume alcohol, remain in the dining area and do not frequent the “bar portion” of the establishment. Granted, some states may allow persons with firearms to drink and visit the bars of these restaurants. But enough states limit this privilege to make these guidelines necessary. And most states that allow carry in these restaurants also allow them to post signs prohibiting carry. So beware!

Houses of Worship refers to meeting places (churches, mosques, etc.) where people congregate for religious reasons. Most states allow each of these locations to determine whether to allow gun carry. But sometimes the allowance must be stated affirmatively. This means that carry is prohibited *unless* the church specifically allows it. In other instances, churches are like most retail businesses. Carry is O.K. unless the property is posted. These points are covered on a state by state basis. An important caveat for travelers is the issue of churches located on prohibited property (ie. K-12 schools). Unless a state exempts the church from the “no carry” rules of that location, the church is as off-limits as the school.

Duty to Notify LEO of permit status refers to the permit holder’s duty to notify an approaching *Law Enforcement Officer (LEO)* that he has a concealed weapon and a license authorizing him to carry it. States will either require “immediate notification” upon initial contact with the officer or notification upon officer request. The states that require *immediate notification* put the burden on the licensee to tell the officer that he has a permit with a concealed weapon. Failure to immediately do so upon first contact can result in an arrest. So be especially careful in these states.

Red Flag Laws are covered in a graphic, rather than textual way. These laws, formally known as Extreme Risk Protection Orders, allow certain actors (police, family members, co-workers) to file court petitions to *temporarily* remove guns from someone they believe to be a danger to themselves or others. While not an issue directly affecting travelers, the media’s attention to this matter has sparked an interest in coverage. So states that have red flag laws are noted with a flag graphic in the upper right margin of their text. Most states with these laws tend to be restrictive on other gun issues. So a *flagged* state, with a few exceptions, is generally a *bad* state for guns.

Shall issue v. May Issue The case of *Bruen* eliminated all discretionary permit issuance known as “may issue.” Hence, most references to “may issue” v. “shall issue” have been dropped from the text.

Right of Self-defense

The “Right of Self-defense” section in the Traveler’s checklist indicates how each state protects a traveler’s self-defense rights. It references whether a state has enacted an “NRA-model castle doctrine” in the last nineteen years and whether a citizen has a right to “stand his ground” in public areas and not retreat when threatened with deadly force. Most states have some form of the “common law castle doctrine” which provides *stand your ground* rights in your home. But many of the “NRA-model castle doctrines” extend this right to public areas outside one’s home. Most reference any place “where a person has a right to be.” Others limit the right to your vehicle. Some states may have “stand your ground” language in their case law but not in their statutes. These states are classified as “not codified.”

The section is not intended to provide the reader with in-depth knowledge of a state’s self-defense laws. Rather it is a barometer that allows the casual traveler to assess a state’s attitude toward self-defense rights outside of one’s home. Too often, citizens (ie. Kyle Rittenhouse) who use deadly force to defend themselves are prosecuted by over-zealous district attorneys and even sued in civil court by their attackers. The result is a chilling effect. A citizen is afraid to use a gun for self-defense for fear of being turned into a criminal. This section will allow the traveler to determine which states are friendly to the citizen and which ones coddle the criminal.

Vehicle Gun Possession at Colleges

Most colleges and universities prohibit firearms carry in buildings and campus facilities. But some states have begun to carve out exceptions for gun possession in vehicles located on campus parking lots. The Guide provides an overview of this by classifying the regulatory action each state undertakes. Some states prohibit all gun possession on college campuses (vehicles included) through their criminal or administrative codes. Violating these rules could result in criminal sanctions such as arrest and prosecution. Other states allow each college to determine regulatory action through policy. Those connected in some way to the college (students, faculty and staff) are most at risk. They can be fired, expelled or face civil sanctions. Aside from muted trespass charges, not much can be done to penalize the occasional visitor. A small but growing number of states exempt those holding valid carry licenses from criminal action and, in some cases, also exempt all lawful gun owners. Perhaps the safest states are the ones such as Kentucky, which, along with exempting all gun owners from criminal sanctions, also prevent colleges from prohibiting vehicle gun possession through policy.

The Guide classifies each state based on these regulatory schemes. Where vehicle gun possession is allowed, the gun should remain locked in one's car and hidden from view. If the state limits carry to permittees, then only weapons allowed for permitted carry (ie handguns) may be stored in the vehicle.

Some states exempt gun owners from criminal sanctions but allow the enforcement of college policy that could adversely affect those connected with the institution. These states are noted appropriately under each subheading. And readers should not be surprised to see "no gun" signs in campus parking lots where possession of lawful firearms is allowed. Some colleges still attempt to enforce "no gun" policies in spite of state laws that prevent such rules; proving that academics will often bend the rules to meet their own ideological ends.

Vehicle Gun Possession on K-12 School Grounds

Although most states prohibit gun possession within K-12 school buildings, some states have created exemptions for possession within vehicles located on school parking lots. The Guide covers this aspect in the Traveler's Checklist. But readers should be aware of several important parameters.

First, coverage is limited to permittees who are licensed by the state where the K-12 school is located. This is to be in conformance with both federal and state law. Federal law generally prohibits any loaded gun possession in or on school grounds or within 1,000 feet of such grounds. Firearms located on private property within the zone and guns possessed by persons licensed to carry by the state where the K-12 school is located may be loaded. So even though some states, such as Kentucky, do not require a license to have a loaded handgun in a vehicle, federal law would make any loaded gun possession illegal unless one had a license from the state where the school is located.

Second, coverage is limited to loaded handguns that are concealed from view and, when the vehicle is unoccupied, locked inside a secure compartment. Visible guns are not recommended even if a specific state's law does not prohibit them. And most states restrict permittee carry to handguns only. So one should assume the exemption applies only to handguns and not to long guns whether loaded or unloaded.

And finally, this section is primarily intended to provide guidance for non-student adult parents who are attending some legitimate event on campus with a handgun in their vehicle. School employees may have separate policies for which they are responsible. While it would not be a criminal act for them to possess a gun in a vehicle in a state that allows such possession, they could run afoul of a personnel policy that could affect their future employment.

Loaded vs. Unloaded

The term "loaded" refers to firearms that have live ammunition in either the magazine or the chamber. A firearm with any number of rounds in its magazine is considered loaded under the laws of most states even if no live round is in the chamber. The five notable exceptions to this general rule are Colorado, Nevada, North Dakota, South Dakota and Utah which define "loaded" as only applying to firearms with a live round in the chamber. Some states consider guns that are in close proximity to magazines containing ammunition to be "loaded"(ie. New York). Other states prohibit magazines from being inserted into firearms but allow loaded magazines to be located within arms reach of the firearm. These state-by-state differences are noted appropriately within the text.

Travelers should also keep all loaded firearms out of reach of their children while in a vehicle. A small number of states criminalize those who keep firearms in any place where a child might access the weapon. Some states, such as Ohio and Colorado, have specific laws in this regard. Other states may attempt enforcement through generalized laws involving child endangerment.

Open Carry

Carrying a handgun that is unconcealed on your person is a way for some persons to carry who do not have the benefit of a recognized permit. Many states do not criminalize such behavior; thus making this mode of carry legitimate under law. But travelers should use common sense when open carrying in populated urban areas where such carry is not widespread. Even in states that allow such carry in theory, police may stop and question an individual who is displaying a firearm on his hip for all to see. Granted, no person who is exercising a fundamental right should be harassed for otherwise legal behavior. But such scrutiny can and does occur in the real world. A traveler should simply exercise good judgment and keep his handgun secured in a snapped, visible belt holster. He should also understand that he is generally under the same "place" restrictions as one who carries concealed with a permit.

Interstate transport through restrictive states

Readers will notice references to the McClure-Volkmer Act of 1986 and its governance of interstate firearms transport. This federal law is listed in the U.S. Code as an amendment to the Gun Control Act of 1968. It serves to correct certain draconian aspects of the 1968 law as well as make interstate transport of firearms less restrictive. Persons transporting firearms through a state that would otherwise view such transport as illegal may do so if the weapons are unloaded, cased and stowed in a trunk or vehicle storage compartment which is not readily accessible to the occupants. Any ammunition must also be kept separate from the firearms. Persons operating vehicles without trunks or external storage compartments may transport unloaded firearms in "locked" cases. Internal storage compartments other than console boxes or glove compartments that are locked may also suffice when a trunk is not available.

The traveler must simply be passing through the state and must be bound for a jurisdiction where possession of such weapons is legal. Any extended stops for reasons other than gas or emergency services would effectively nullify the traveler's interstate commerce classification and subject him to the effects of state law. For example, a traveler from Kentucky bound for Maine with Class III machine guns will pass through the state of New York. New York does not allow personal possession of machine guns. As long as the traveler maintains a steady, uninterrupted course through the state with the offending weapons stowed in the manner described above, he is operating within the parameters of federal law. As soon as the traveler stops to visit relatives in Albany, he falls within the police power of New York. He could be arrested for possessing firearms that are illegal under New York law. Some travelers have found it beneficial to have a hotel or campground pre-registration form with them when trekking through restrictive states such as New York. This form proves to any state trooper that you are actually traveling to a legitimate, gun-friendly destination and have no intention of remaining within the restrictive state for an extended period.

The Code only references firearms or ammunition. So the law *may* not cover a box of high capacity magazines (or other component parts) that are prohibited in a restrictive state. The courts have yet to "flesh out" the details of this aspect.

Traffic Stops

Any traveler carrying firearms should be aware of the proper way to handle a routine traffic stop. One involved in frequent travel will eventually be pulled over for a speeding violation or some other minor infraction. A motorist should avoid any erratic physical movements during a traffic stop. Both hands should remain on the steering wheel while the driver remains seated in the vehicle waiting for the officer to approach. At this point, the investigating officer has the right to ask questions of the motorist concerning his operation of the vehicle. Questions which may elicit self-incriminating information from the traveler may be refuted by simply informing the officer that the traveler would prefer to be represented by proper counsel before answering the posed question. Some officers may wish to go beyond mere questioning and conduct a search of the vehicle for contraband that could include firearms in some states. For an officer to conduct a legitimate search of a vehicle, he must have "probable cause." Most traffic stops do not provide the officer with enough probable cause for a search. Therefore, the

officer will often politely ask the motorist for voluntary consent. Many citizens, fearing they will look guilty upon refusal, willingly sign the consent form the officer provides them. This is not a recommended course of action. Voluntary consent gives the officer free reign to do what he likes and nullifies any subsequent legal challenges. If asked to consent to a vehicle search, politely refuse and inform the officer that he will have to search on his own. Most officers who are unable to establish probable cause will not search without a consent form.

Travelers should note that a police officer might conduct a "protective search" of your person for weapons without probable cause. An officer may ask a motorist who appears suspicious to exit the vehicle so as to allow a frisk of the person's clothing for concealed weapons. The officer may also check the area of the vehicle under the motorist's immediate control for weapons before allowing him to reenter the vehicle. The courts allow this type of search only if the officer can articulate a reasonable suspicion that the motorist may possess a weapon. Such a protective search may not extend to other areas of the vehicle without probable cause of criminal activity.

Permittees sometimes wonder whether they should volunteer to an officer that they have a recognized permit if the officer does not ask. Most states do not require a citizen to divulge that information unless the officer requests it. But some states require the permittee to volunteer the information as soon as he is approached by a police officer. The states that require this action are noted in the text. As a general rule, it is recommended that no matter what the legal restriction, a recognized permittee should let an officer know that he has a permit with a gun on his person. Such notification will help avoid any escalation of what is already a tense situation. This notification is generally limited to permittees who carry under the authority of a permit. Firearms that are cased and unloaded in the trunk or storage area need not be declared unless a vehicle search is executed.

Also, recent reports indicate that police in anti-gun states such as Maryland are using license plate reader cameras to pull over gun owners from other states and search them for weapons. One family from Florida recently had their car emptied of all possessions, the husband handcuffed and the wife and kids searched because the Maryland trooper had information obtained from one of these cameras that the motorist had a carry license in his native state of Florida. The trooper claimed this gave him "probable cause" to harass the otherwise innocent family for almost two hours. Whether this is standard policy in Maryland has yet to be determined. But, be advised, this case illustrates how police in other states may know your license status before they even pull you over.

Universally Restricted Areas

Firearms carry is universally prohibited in certain areas even with a concealed carry permit. Federal installations such as Post Offices (including parking lots), courthouses and administrative offices and some federal management areas such as Corps of Engineers properties forbid gun carry inside buildings and, in most instances, on the outside premises. The Corps of Engineers enforces the "no guns" rule on any property it occupies, owns or leases to others. Many lakes formed by Corps of Engineers dam projects contain shoreline that is owned by the Corps. And some state parks have boundaries that intermingle with Corp property. So travelers should be aware of where these boundaries exist and carry their firearms per McClure-Volkmer (p.5) when on the "Corps side" of the border.

Military bases prohibit firearms carry by visitors and also restrict firearm possession within one's vehicle. A recent Defense Department directive (5210.56) outlines gun possession policy on DOD property and also provides guidance as to how certain qualified personnel could be granted authority to carry personal firearms while on a military post. Visitors and military personnel should check with officials before visiting a military installation with firearms.

Most states prohibit firearms carry within preschool and primary & secondary school buildings (K-12). Harsh penalties are usually set for violating this restriction. And Federal law prohibits firearm possession within 1000 ft. of primary and secondary school properties. Concealed weapon permittees from the state in which the school is located, persons possessing unloaded firearms in locked containers inside their vehicles and private property areas within this zone are exempt from this prohibition. But someone carrying a loaded gun without a license within 1,000 feet of a school's property boundary would be in violation of federal law (although federal prosecutors have mostly used this as an "add-on" charge for drug and gang activity). Exceptions for vehicle possession by permittees on actual school grounds are covered separately on p. 4 of this section.

Firearms carry *may* also be prohibited in law enforcement offices, detention facilities, courthouses,

most legislative meetings, polling booths, many public buildings that house governmental offices where official business is conducted as well as mental health and day care facilities. And, for the most part, the status of these areas is specifically noted in the narrative for each state.

Retail establishments whose *primary* business is the sale of alcohol by the drink (bars) may have restrictions that vary from total prohibition to gun carry absent any alcohol consumption. Travelers should avoid carrying into these areas unless the specific rule for that state is known.

Hotels & Lodgings

Questions often arise as to gun carry in hotels. No state specifically prohibits carry in hotels. And two states, Montana & Texas, actually protect the right of travelers to possess loaded guns in hotel rooms. But, in most states, carry would be subject to the individual policy of the hotel. And this is where the reader should make special note. While a hotel may have a *policy* against gun possession, that policy may lack any “force of law.” The hotel can ask a gun-carrying guest to leave. But, unless the guest refuses, no criminal sanctions are possible. The coverage in the Traveler’s Checklist is directed toward this common factor. If the hotel is located in a state where a “no gun” policy, with proper “posted” notice, could result in criminal sanctions, then “force of law” is mentioned in the blurb. If a state has a statute allowing rejection or ejection of a guest for gun possession, this fact is also noted. States with no relevant laws are simply classified as “subject to policy enforcement.”

Readers should note that some states are subject to the “informed consent” law. This recently developed regulatory scheme exists where carry is prohibited in all private businesses unless the property owners post signs allowing such carry. States such as Hawaii, New York & California have this rule.

The information in this section assumes that the potential guest is in legal possession of his firearm (preferably with a recognized permit) and is not involved in any other criminal activity. And, while we do not recommend violating even non-criminal hotel policies, necessity may sometimes require that a “judgement call” be made as to whether to keep a gun with you while staying in a hotel. This section will allow one to make an informed decision based on the relevant statutes.

Highway Rest Areas

Defensive gun carry is perhaps most needed when visiting rest areas. Usually located miles from any population centers, rest areas have become increasingly prone to violent crime. Most states allow lawful carry at these much-needed locations. But a distinct minority prohibits carry in the buildings and/or grounds of their facilities. This issue is covered on a state-by-state basis in the Traveler’s checklist. Each blurb is based on a traveler qualifying to carry in the state where the rest area is located. Rhode Island, for example, allows carry at its rest areas. But you must first have a Rhode Island permit to carry in Rhode Island. So anyone without a Rhode Island permit would not be allowed to carry at a rest area. Also, some states that allow both open and concealed carry may require guns at rest areas to remain concealed. This issue is covered as well. And, for the most restrictive states, McClure-Volkmer (see p. 5) still applies as long as firearms remain secured in your vehicle. Readers may occasionally notice “no gun” signs at rest areas where lawful carry is, in fact, allowed. These illegal postings are rare, but travelers should be aware that they might exist even though they are unenforceable.

National Parks & Forests

Firearm possession in National Parks and wildlife refuges is governed by 16 USC section 1a-7b of the U.S. Code which mandates that gun carry in these areas is regulated by the state where the park or refuge is located. For example, if your permit is recognized in Idaho, you can carry in any park or refuge located in Idaho, subject to the carry restrictions of Idaho. This expansion of the right to carry only applies to outdoor areas such as nature trails and campsites. All official structures such as visitor centers and ranger stations are still off-limits to any gun carry. Private vendors with gift shops and restaurants are not automatically off-limits. But most states allow these entities to post signs that prohibit carry.

National Forests are under the management of the Department of Agriculture and are not subject to the same regulatory action as National Parks. The law of the state where the National Forest is located is usually the law that prevails for gun carry. If a state allows open carry, the National Forests in that state also allow open carry unless otherwise posted. Some travelers have reported “no firearms” signs in National Forests that are located in otherwise firearms-friendly states. These signs may exist because a

state's law specifically prohibits carry in a national forest. Or the signs may be posted by officials attempting to enforce an otherwise unenforceable policy. Either way, travelers should know that authorities might enforce these restrictions regardless of their legal basis.

Indian Reservations

Indian reservations *may have* stricter carry laws than the states where they are located. This is because reservations are relatively autonomous areas that exist as quasi-independent nations. While it is beyond the scope of this Guide to cover each reservation specifically, some car carry recommendations for larger reservations are listed below:

- Arizona:** Navajo, Hopi, & Yavapai – loaded gun in a glove compartment, luggage or closed trunk O.K.
- Colorado:** Southern Ute – loaded handgun in vehicle O.K. – long guns must be chamber unloaded
- Florida:** Florida carry laws apply on all Indian Reservations
- Idaho:** Nez Perce – loaded gun in plain view or concealed with any state permit O.K.; Ft. Hall – loaded gun in glove compartment, luggage or closed trunk O.K.
- Minnesota:** Red Lake, Leech Lake & White Earth – firearms should be cased, unloaded & stowed in trunk
- Montana:** Crow, N. Cheyenne & Blackfeet – loaded gun in glove compartment or trunk O.K.; Ft. Peck – loaded gun w/ any state permit O.K., no permit, gun should be in plain view or trunk
- Nevada:** Walker River – guns should be unloaded & cased; Pyramid Lake – all gun possession prohibited
- New Mexico:** Navajo – loaded gun in glove compartment, trunk or luggage O.K.; Mescalero Apache – loaded gun anywhere in vehicle O.K.
- North Dakota:** Standing Rock – firearms must be chamber unloaded, cased & stowed in trunk or rear area
- Oklahoma:** Osage – all firearms must be chamber unloaded; Cherokee - permitless & permitted carry O.K.
- Oregon:** Warm Springs – guns should be cased, unloaded & stowed in trunk or rear storage area
- South Dakota:** Standing Rock – guns must be chamber unloaded & stowed in trunk or rear passenger area; Pine River – South Dakota car carry rules apply for non-Indians
- Utah:** Uintah & Ouray – loaded handgun anywhere in vehicle O.K., long guns must be unloaded
- Washington:** Colville – guns should be unloaded, cased & stowed in trunk or rear passenger area; (most WA reservations require a permit issued by the tribe to carry a concealed, loaded gun)
- Wisconsin:** Menominee – loaded gun carry requires tribal-issued permit, otherwise guns must be cased, unloaded & stowed in trunk or locked container within passenger compartment
- Wyoming:** Wind River - loaded gun should be in plain view or trunk unless one has a valid permit

Travelers passing through these reservations are advised to exercise caution. “On foot” carry is not recommended. And car carry should be limited to the above recommendations. If a reservation is not listed, then all firearms should be unloaded, cased and secured in a manner that is consistent with the McClure-Volkmer Act (see p. 5).

Motorcycle Issues

Motorcycle riders often ask how carry laws written for four-wheel vehicles apply to them. For example, where is the glove compartment in a motorcycle? Does a saddlebag qualify as a legitimate container for gun carry? Most states' laws do not specifically address these issues. But motorcycle owners can follow some general rules and be sure of compliance in most states.

The rear compartment on a motorcycle qualifies as a trunk if it contains a lock. An unloaded handgun in this locked compartment should be legitimate in most states that prohibit loaded firearms in a vehicle. And, of course, a carry permit would allow the concealed carry of a loaded firearm on one's person in states that recognize the permit. Tote bags have the same effect as a briefcase or gym bag carried on a vehicle's front seat. Most weapons in this venue would be considered concealed.

If one lacks a recognized permit while visiting a state that allows open carry, a firearm could be carried in a hip holster in plain view. This carry mode might appear somewhat aggressive to other motorists and could result in unnecessary attention from police. But it would be an otherwise legal way to carry a handgun in a state that allows open carry. A motorist would have to weigh the advantage of being legally armed with the disadvantage of being subject to increased scrutiny.

Motorhome and RV issues

A common question among RV owners is whether their motorhomes are considered vehicles or residences. Most states consider RVs to be readily mobile and thus subject to all firearm laws concerning vehicular travel. But courts have held that RVs in a fixed state (ie. in a designated campground and hooked up to water, sewer, electric and other utilities) are residences. RV owners should keep this in mind so as to be aware of what their classification is at any one particular time. Many states will allow loaded firearms possession in one's home while prohibiting it in one's vehicle.

Occasional references are made to the trunk transport of firearms. The usual response from RV owners is, "I drive an RV, I don't have a trunk." Because most state statutes do not address the issue of carry in motorhomes, owners should view their external compartments as having the same legal status as a standard vehicle's trunk. A trunk is a compartment that requires one to exit the vehicle in order to gain access to it. If a recommendation is made to transport guns in one's trunk, RVers should take this to mean any external compartment or an internal compartment that is locked.

The same standard can be applied to trailers that require one to exit the towing vehicle to access their interiors. Trailer transport of guns would have the same legal effect as transporting firearms in a trunk. Both are separate from the passenger section of the vehicle and would qualify as legitimate storage areas.

Owners of full size RVs sometimes find it difficult to apply the principle of "plain view" carry to their rigs. If the cab is extremely high, how does an approaching police officer see the gun from outside the vehicle? Simply put, the officer cannot. And if the gun is not visible from outside the vehicle, then it is not in plain view. Full-size Rvers must exercise another carry option if they wish to keep a loaded gun up front. Many states allow console box and glove compartment carry for non-permittees. These options do not have a visibility requirement and probably serve the large motorhome owner better.

And, finally, the practice of "boondocking" or camping in non-designated areas such as Walmart parking lots, has become more common in recent years. Most Rvers resort to this activity without much forethought. You're tired and you need to pullover to get some rest. But what if the property you choose has a "no gun" policy, even in parking areas? It may help to know which states safeguard your gun possession through "parking lot protection" laws. These laws prohibit property owners from extending gun prohibitions to parking areas. If your firearm stays hidden from view within your rig, your right to possess it in your RV is protected in these states. Readers will find this issue covered for each state in the "Traveler's Checklist." The coverage is general and classifies whether a state has comprehensive parking lot protection or not. Some states, like North Carolina, may have exemptions for permittees in certain specific areas, but no overall protection. For a state to be listed as "*may not prohibit*" the coverage must include most any parking lot open to the public with the exception of K-12 schools which have additional restrictions per federal law – see p.4. Boondockers will find this information helpful. Even though you may still choose to "chance it" in a state that does not have "parking lot protection," you can sleep better knowing your rights.

Traveling by Air, Cruise Ship, Train & Greyhound Bus

While federal law prohibits firearm possession in the sterile areas of airports, persons traveling by air may transport unloaded firearms in their checked baggage. Firearms must be unloaded and secured in locked, hard-sided gun cases. Ammunition should be contained in commercial boxes and not loaded into any extraneous magazines. Firearms and ammunition may be kept in the same locked case unless a specific airline's regulations mandate otherwise. Travelers must notify their airline about the presence of the firearms and/or ammunition when checking the baggage and provide the key to their gun cases if a search is requested. Check-in procedures vary among airlines. Travelers should call ahead to verify where to check-in and what paperwork needs to be completed. Federal law prevents airlines from marking cases containing guns with visible "firearm" signs. Any attempts to do so would be illegal.

Those entering an airport who do not intend to board an airline may carry in the parking lot and non-sterile (before the security screening) terminal areas if allowed by the state where the airport is located. The "Traveler's Checklist" covers this issue on a state by state basis. States that allow carry in both terminals and parking lots are noted as well as states that allow carry in parking lots only. Some states prohibit carry on all airport property and others may allow localities to decide the matter. Those exercising this option must be lawfully allowed to carry (ie. by permit or other authorization) in the state where the airport is located. They must also watch for postings that indicate where "sterile areas" begin

and where “no weapon” zones are located.

A federal court recently held that the interstate transportation protections of McClure-Volkmer (p.5) only apply to vehicular travel. Travelers with connecting flights through restrictive states could face local prosecution if they possess any firearms that are illegal in those states.

Gun owners traveling by train, cruise ship, greyhound bus or other form of common carrier involved in interstate transportation must turn over possession of their legally owned firearms and ammunition to the captain, conductor or pilot of the vessel for the duration of the trip. Certain carriers will make provisions for passengers transporting firearms. But travelers are encouraged to contact the carrier before making passage to determine what that policy might be.

Over the Road Commercial Trucks

Mark Twain once said, “a rumor is half way around the world before the truth gets its boots on.” One of the most often heard rumors is that federal law prohibits carrying firearms in commercial vehicles such as semi-tractor trailers. This myth has been repeated by trucking company supervisors and corporate management for years with no legal citation or statutory proof offered for support. The truth is that while many companies have internal policies that prohibit guns in company vehicles, no federal law exists that regulates guns in trucks. Truckers can carry subject to the same state and local restrictions as everyone else. Independent truckers will have an easier time carrying simply because they are not beholden to company policies that may prohibit such activity. But any trucker, regardless of company policy, **will not** be violating federal law if he carries a gun for personal protection.

Current & Retired Law Enforcement Officers

Federal law allows all active duty law enforcement officers from any state or locality to carry concealed firearms while traveling. The officer must possess an official photographic identification from his department and be authorized to carry a firearm by the agency with which he is employed. The firearm may be carried in most public areas but must remain concealed. This carry allowance does not extend to any governmental property where carry is prohibited or private properties where the owners restrict gun possession. State magazine restrictions apply to officers who carry under this law. But recent amendments exempt officers from any ammunition restrictions that are not rooted in federal law.

Retired law enforcement officers also have the right to carry concealed firearms while traveling in the same manner stated above. But the restrictions on their qualifying status are much greater. To be considered a “retired law enforcement officer,” one must have been employed as a law enforcement officer for at least 10 years and been authorized during that period to carry a firearm and conduct arrests and investigations. If an officer did not achieve a full 10 years of service, but separated from employment early because of a service connected disability, then any probationary service period as determined by his department of employment would be acceptable. Most importantly, every 12 months, a retired officer must meet his current state’s firearm qualification standards for police or those standards of the agency from which he retired. He must also have a photographic identification issued by the department from which he retired identifying him as a former policeman of that department. Certification through either the agency he retired from or any certified firearms instructor or law enforcement agency in his current state of residence is acceptable.

And finally, those officers who carry under these provisions would be well advised to maintain a valid concealed weapons permit. Allowances for carry in areas like National Parks and School Zones may only apply to civilian permit holders. Although professional courtesy goes a long way, having the civilian permit will help prevent an otherwise awkward moment with local law enforcement.

Preemption of Local Laws

Firearm preemption laws prevent cities and counties from regulating the carry, possession and ownership of firearms. Some laws mandate total uniformity by prohibiting any amount of home rule while others *grandfather* preexisting local ordinances. A small minority allows limited local control in certain areas (ie. open carry). These distinctions are noted for each state and help the traveler determine if issues such as open carry or glove compartment placement are subject to local control. Travelers will find their journeys much easier to plan in states with comprehensive preemption laws in place.



Alabama

Total prohibition (+0, guns are “king” in the cotton state – Sweet Home Alabama!)

Total freedom

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C H E C K L I S T

- ***Standard firearms & ammo:** no permit required for possession or sale – see p. 2
- ***Semi-auto guns & high capacity magazines:** no permit required for possession or sale
- ***Machine guns & suppressors:** ownership lawful per federal law compliance
- ***Firearm law uniformity:** preemption law, local unit liability for non-compliance
- ***Right of Self-Defense:** NRA-model castle doctrine, *stand your ground* in public areas
- ***Open carry:** lawful in most public areas; some exceptions, see below
- ***Licensed concealed carry:** licenses issued by sheriffs to residents only
- ***Constitutional or “no permit required” concealed carry:** yes
- ***Out-of-state permit recognition:** automatic recognition for all nonresidents with carry permits
- ***Weapons allowed for licensed carry:** limited to handguns only
- ***Vehicle carry by non-permittees:** handguns may be carried loaded and concealed; loaded rifles & shotguns are O.K. unless possession occurs in certain prohibited locations (see below)
- ***Vehicle gun possession at colleges:** subject to college policy outlined by statute
- ***Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools:** subject to policy set by local school boards
- ***Duty to notify LEO of permit/carry status:** upon demand of police officer
- ***RV carry while “boondocking”:** parking lot owners may restrict gun carry by visitors – see p.9
- ***State Parks:** concealed handgun carry by recognized licensees permitted
- ***Restaurants serving alcohol:** persons may carry while eating in dining areas – see p.3
- ***Houses of Worship:** carry O.K. for permittees unless posted; non-permittees need church consent – p.3
- ***Hotels:** subject to hotel policy enforcement – see p.7
- ***Airports:** carry allowed in non-sterile terminal areas and parking lots – see p. 9
- ***Highway Rest Areas:** carry allowed in buildings and on grounds – see p. 7

V E H I C L E S

The “Heart of Dixie” has a well-earned reputation for a strong and vibrant gun culture. The state’s recent enactment of constitutional carry confirmed what most already knew. Alabama folk love their guns!

Recognized permittees: Alabama’s adoption of permitless carry did not end the state’s issuance of carry licenses. Licenses are still issued by local sheriffs to qualified residents 19 & older for 1 to 5 year terms. These permits may later be upgraded to lifetime status. Alabama does not issue permits to nonresidents but will recognize any out-of-state carry permit so long as the permittee is a nonresident.

Aside from being beneficial for out-of-state travel, permits also allow a somewhat wider range of carry options. Permittees may carry at most athletic events unless access to the event is restricted with security devices (ie. metal detectors, etc.) Resident permittees may also carry in K-12 school facilities unless local school boards ban such carry through policy enforcement. But, despite this relative freedom, postings prohibiting carry still exist for certain public buildings, some universally restricted areas (p.6) and prohibited areas listed in “All Persons.”

Persons without recognized permits: Any person 19 or older who is legally qualified to possess a handgun may carry it openly or concealed in most non-prohibited public places. Alabama recently excluded any gun carry that is “non-threatening” from being prosecuted as “disorderly conduct.” While traveling in a vehicle, handguns may be carried just about anywhere including glove compartment, console box or “under the seat.”

All Persons: Loaded long guns may be transported in vehicles. But certain areas, such as state parks, state land division properties and wildlife management areas, require all long guns in vehicles to be unloaded.

Anyone may openly carry a loaded handgun while on foot in most public areas. But open or concealed carry on private property requires a carry license or the consent of the property’s owner. And travelers may find some public and private parking lots off-limits to gun possession, even if the gun is kept within one’s vehicle.

Buildings with restricted access (turnstiles, metal detectors, etc.), law enforcement offices, hospitals, courthouses and offices of elected officials are also prohibited. But these places must post signs and may not prohibit visitors from having guns secured in closed compartments of their locked cars. Athletic events are prohibited to non-permittees. Permittee carry is O.K. unless the event facilities use security features (ie. magnetometers or guards) to restrict entry. And firearm carry at or near public demonstrations is prohibited.

Alabama requires anyone stopped by law enforcement to declare possession of a firearm if asked. And no person may touch or knowingly handle his pistol during a traffic stop.

Alaska



Total prohibition

(+0, America's frontier, great for guns, need we say more)

Total freedom

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- ***Standard firearms & ammo:** no permit required for possession or sale – see p. 2
- ***Semi-auto guns & high capacity magazines:** no permit required for possession or sale
- ***Machine guns & suppressors:** ownership lawful per federal law compliance
- ***Firearm law uniformity:** preemption statute, laws mostly uniform throughout the state
- ***Right of Self-Defense:** NRA model castle doctrine, *stand your ground* in public areas
- ***Open carry:** lawful in most public areas and generally accepted
- ***Licensed concealed carry:** licenses granted to residents only
- ***Constitutional or “no permit required” concealed carry:** yes – see below
- ***Out-of-state permit recognition:** automatic recognition of carry permits from all other states
- ***Weapons allowed for *licensed carry*:** limited to handguns only
- ***Vehicle carry by non-permittees:** loaded, concealed firearms may be carried anywhere in a vehicle by persons 21 years or older
- ***Vehicle gun possession at colleges:** lawful for any gun owner
- ***Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools:** Alaska permittee must unload and encase gun
- ***Duty to notify LEO of permit/carry status:** immediately upon official contact
- ***RV carry while “boondocking”:** parking lot owners may *not* prohibit guns in vehicles – see p. 9
- ***State Parks:** any non-felon may carry a firearm for self-defense
- ***Restaurant serving alcohol:** concealed handgun carry O.K. in dining areas – see p. 3
- ***Houses of Worship:** gun carry O.K. unless premises is posted – see p. 3
- ***Hotels:** subject to hotel policy enforcement & possible “force of law” posting prohibitions – see p. 7
- ***Airports:** carry allowed in non-sterile terminal areas and parking lots – see p. 9
- ***Highway Rest Areas:** carry allowed in buildings and on grounds – see p. 7

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The Alaskan wilderness continues to shape the character of America's last frontier. A majority of the state's 700,000 residents carry and use firearms on a regular basis. So only travelers without guns will feel outnumbered in the land of the midnight sun.

Recognized permittees: Alaska issues carry permits to qualified residents and will recognizes licenses issued by any other state or locality. Permits are issued for five-year terms and authorize the holders to carry loaded, concealed handgun in most public areas. The need for permits was diminished in 2003 when the state adopted a Vermont-style carry policy allowing persons 21 years or older to carry concealed handguns without licenses. But Alaskans still obtain permits so they can enjoy reciprocal privileges while traveling.

Persons without recognized permits: Any person who is 21 years or older may carry a concealed, loaded handgun in the passenger compartment of his vehicle or in most public areas while on foot. This allowance extends to a handgun concealed under one's coat or in a gym bag, purse or briefcase carried by the person. While in a vehicle, placement is also legitimate in console boxes, glove compartments & seat pockets.

All Persons: Firearms carry is prohibited in bars, K-12 schools, day care & assisted living centers. Gun carry in private residences is also prohibited unless the owner of the property provides express permission for such carry. But a traveler who is not otherwise prohibited from possessing firearms may carry a concealed handgun in a restaurant as long as he does not consume any liquor. Any person carrying a concealed firearm must always inform a police officer who contacts that person for an official purpose that he is armed.

Loaded rifles and shotguns may be carried by anyone while on foot or being transported in a vehicle. Gun racks and gun cases are the most common methods of stowage in vehicles.

Local regulation of firearm issues is prohibited. A comprehensive preemption statute prohibits localities from regulating any aspect of firearm carry, transportation, ownership, or possession. Private businesses and most state and municipal properties are also prohibited from regulating firearm possession in vehicles parked on their premises. This aspect, coupled with the unrestrictive carry laws noted above, makes Alaska one of America's most gun-friendly states.



Arizona

Total prohibition (+0, wide open desert & constitutional carry make it one of our best) Total freedom

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C H E C K L I S T

- *Standard firearms & ammo: no permit required for possession or sale – see p. 2
- *Semi-auto guns & high capacity magazines: no permit required for possession or sale
- *Machine guns & suppressors: ownership lawful per federal law compliance
- *Firearm law uniformity: preemption law, local unit liability for non-compliance (see below)
- *Right of Self-Defense: NRA-model castle doctrine, *stand your ground* in public areas
- *Open carry: lawful in most public areas and generally accepted
- *Licensed concealed carry: licenses issued to Arizona residents or qualified U.S. citizens
- *Constitutional or “no permit required” concealed carry: yes – see below
- *Out-of-state permit recognition: automatic recognition of carry permits from all other states
- *Weapons allowed for licensed carry: include any lawful deadly weapon
- *Vehicle carry by non-permittees: loaded firearms may be carried either concealed or openly by anyone who is law-abiding and 21 years or older
- *Vehicle gun possession at colleges: lawful for any gun owner (permittee or non-permittee)
- *Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools: Arizona permittee w/**unloaded** handgun lawful
- *Duty to notify LEO of permit/carry status: upon demand of police officer
- *RV carry while “boondocking”: parking lot owners may *not* prohibit guns in vehicles – see p.9
- *State Parks: concealed carry in outdoor areas by those 21 & older allowed; buildings may be restricted
- *Restaurants serving alcohol: permittees may carry while eating in dining areas – see p.3
- *Houses of Worship: gun carry O.K. unless premises is posted – see p.3
- *Hotels: subject to hotel policy enforcement & “force of law” posting prohibitions -- see p.7
- *Airports: carry allowed in non-sterile terminal areas and parking lots – see p.9
- *Highway Rest Areas: carry allowed in buildings and on grounds – see p.7

V E H I C L E S

It is not uncommon to see citizens walking the streets of major Arizona cities with holstered, loaded firearms. While open carry without a permit may be legal in other jurisdictions, it is perhaps more commonly practiced in the Grand Canyon State than elsewhere. And, thanks to pro-gun legislators, Arizona extends this freedom to concealed carry. Arizona is one of a growing number of states where a citizen need not obtain a government permission slip (aka permit) to carry a concealed weapon.

Recognized permittees: Despite having “permitless” concealed carry, Arizona still issues licenses to carry concealed weapons to Arizona residents or qualified U.S. citizens for five-year terms. Arizona recognizes any other state’s permit so long as the permittee is legally present in the state, has physical possession of his license and is at least 21 years of age with no outstanding indictments or warrants.

Certain advantages exist to having a permit. For example, carry is allowed in restaurants that serve alcohol unless the owner of the business posts a sign prohibiting carry. Persons without permits may not carry concealed or openly regardless of posting. And most residents find that out-of-state travel is much easier with a carry license. Many states that still require a license to carry will recognize the Arizona permit.

Persons without recognized permits: Any law-abiding citizen who is 21 or older may carry a concealed weapon in a vehicle or on foot in most public areas. He must disclose to police, if asked, that he has a firearm. And he may not carry into any business serving alcohol for consumption on the premises. Those 18-20 may only open carry on foot and must keep their gun in a holster, glove compartment or trunk while in a vehicle.

All Persons: Arizona prohibits localities from enforcing most laws regulating firearms and provides civil penalties for violators. Persons are still prohibited from carry in such obvious places as K-12 schools, some public colleges (if prohibited by Board of Regents), polling places on Election Day and nuclear & hydroelectric power plants. Carry *may* be banned in some less obvious areas such as “public establishments” (ie. sports arenas and other bldgs. owned or leased by the government) and “public events” (ie. outdoor music concerts). Public establishments must post signs and will also provide secure storage for firearms during the duration of one’s visit. Public events must be licensed events and do not include informal gatherings of people. Fortunately for travelers, most property owners are prohibited from enforcing rules that ban firearms in privately owned vehicles on their parking lots. And schools and universities are prohibited from enforcing policies that prohibit lawful gun possession in vehicles located in public right-of-ways around their properties.

Arkansas



Total prohibition (+0, guns, football & pickups – 3 essentials in Razorback country)

Total freedom

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CHECKLIST

- ***Standard firearms & ammo:** no permit required for possession or sale – see p. 2
- ***Semi-auto guns & high capacity magazines:** no permit required for possession or sale
- ***Machine guns & suppressors:** ownership lawful per federal law compliance
- ***Firearm law uniformity:** preemption statute; laws mostly uniform throughout state
- ***Right of Self-Defense:** NRA-model castle doctrine, *stand your ground* in public areas
- ***Open carry:** lawful in public areas where firearms are not specifically prohibited – see below
- ***Licensed concealed carry:** licenses issued to residents only
- ***Constitutional or “no permit required” concealed carry:** yes – see below
- ***Out-of-state permit recognition:** automatic recognition of carry permits from all other states
- ***Weapons allowed for licensed carry:** limited to handguns only
- ***Vehicle carry by non-permittees:** recent court decision supports loaded handguns anywhere in vehicle (see below); long guns may be in plain view or secured in commercial gun cases
- ***Vehicle gun possession at colleges:** prohibited if posted, otherwise lawful for permittees
- ***Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools:** Arkansas permittee w/loaded handgun lawful so long as parking lot is *publicly* owned (private schools set their own rules)
- ***Duty to notify LEO of permit/carry status:** immediately upon contact and request for ID
- ***RV carry while “boondocking”:** parking lot owners may restrict gun carry by visitors – see p.9
- ***State Parks:** recognized licensees may carry in open areas, but not in any gov’t buildings
- ***Restaurants serving alcohol:** permittees may carry while eating in dining areas – p.3
- ***Houses of Worship:** carry prohibited unless church leaders provide notice of consent – p.3
- ***Hotels:** subject to hotel policy enforcement & “force of law” posting prohibitions – see p.7
- ***Airports:** carry prohibited in passenger terminals; car carry in parking lots O.K. – see p.9
- ***Highway Rest Areas:** concealed handgun carry by permittees allowed in bldgs. & on grounds – see p. 7

VEHICLES

Arkansas’s reputation as a rough and ready frontier state in the late 1850s fostered a climate where many a Civil War battle was fought between citizens with opposing sympathies. Privately owned firearms played a key role in determining the outcome of these skirmishes.

Recognized permittees: The State Police issues permits to carry concealed handguns to qualified residents who are at least 21 years old. Permits are granted for five-year terms and only allow the carry of *concealed* handguns. Permittees may upgrade their licenses to “enhanced” status by completing additional training. Enhanced permittees may then carry in many of the otherwise prohibited areas listed below. Arkansas will not grant permits to nonresidents but will recognize carry permits from all other states. Permittees must inform a police officer upon contact that they are carrying a handgun.

A permittee may carry a concealed handgun in a vehicle or on his person in most public areas. But churches (absent consent of church leaders), K-12 public schools (private K-12 set their own rules), college buildings & courthouses (except for some staff), athletic events, parades, bars, state offices (including those in state parks), publicly-owned buildings (except rest areas), governmental meetings, airports and police stations are off-limits to carry. Most other “prohibited” areas are posted. Publicly-owned parking lots for these areas are O.K. if the handgun remains locked in the permittees’ vehicle. Arkansas “enhanced” permittees may carry in many of the above areas (including college bldgs.). But enhancement is limited to Arkansas residents. And the specifics of such carry are too detailed for coverage here.

Persons without recognized permits: Arkansas prohibits carrying a handgun on or about one's person or in a vehicle if the purpose is to *unlawfully* employ it as a “weapon.” The Arkansas Court of Appeals and the state legislature have both confirmed that this language allows the “permitless” carry of a loaded handgun in a vehicle and “on foot” as long as the carrier does not intend to use the handgun to commit a criminal offense. Such carry may be open or concealed but must conform to the “place” restrictions listed above for permittees. And any exceptions to these restrictions (ie. car possession on prohibited property, etc.) may still require a permit.

All Persons: Shotguns and rifles may be carried in gun racks or commercial gun cases but should remain unloaded during hunting season. Permittees are only authorized to carry handguns with their licenses. And the newly confirmed permitless carry only applies to handguns.



California

Total prohibition (-3, "safe storage" enacted; court strikes down some place restrictions) Total freedom

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C H E C K L I S T

- *Standard firearms & ammo: gun registration required for all *new* residents; ammo sales regulated, but possession *mostly* unrestricted; "safe storage" of unattended guns required after 1/1/26
- *Semi-auto guns & high capacity magazines: "assault weapons" & over 10 shots magazines prohibited
- *Machine guns & suppressors: personal ownership prohibited; bump stocks prohibited
- *Firearm law uniformity: limited preemption law, local regulation of carry issues possible
- *Right of Self-Defense: no NRA castle doctrine; self-defense rules per jury instructions
- *Open carry: prohibited in all public areas (loaded or unloaded)
- *Licensed concealed carry: licenses issued by sheriffs to residents for 2-year terms
- *Constitutional or "no permit required" concealed carry: no
- *Out-of-state permit recognition: no recognition of out-of-state carry permits
- *Weapons allowed for *licensed* carry: limited to handguns only
- *Vehicle carry by non-permittees: handguns must be unloaded and secured in a *locked* trunk or *locked* utility box or *locked* in gun cases; long guns must be unloaded
- *Vehicle gun possession at colleges: firearm possession prohibited on all campus property
- *Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools: firearms must be unloaded & in locked cases
- *Duty to notify LEO of permit status: upon demand of police officer
- *RV carry while "boondocking": parking lot owners may restrict gun carry by visitors – see p.9
- *State Parks: most firearms carry by licensees prohibited
- *Restaurants serving alcohol: licensees prohibited from any firearms carry – see p.3
- *Houses of Worship: carry prohibited unless posted sign allows carry (enforcement suspended by court)
- *Hotels: statutory exception for loaded guns, but prohibition possible through "consent of owner" rule
- *Airports: licensees prohibited from any firearms carry - see p.9
- *Highway Rest Areas: carry allowed in outdoor areas & vehicles; buildings *may* be prohibited – see p. 7



V E H I C L E S

Changing demographics & left wing politics have made California a nightmare for gun-owning travelers.

California permittees: A California-issued license is required to carry a handgun concealed on your person or loaded and concealed in a vehicle. California does not issue permits to nonresidents and will not recognize out-of-state licenses. But sheriffs will issue permits to residents who are 21 or older for 2-year terms. These licenses only allow *concealed* carry and require extensive screenings of a person's mental & legal fitness as well as certified training. Permittees are prohibited from carry in most public areas including daycare centers, most gov't buildings, local & state parks, bars, restaurants serving alcohol, playgrounds, athletic events, colleges, K-12 schools, casinos, stadiums, libraries, zoos, museums, airports, amusement parks, polling places, game refuges, gun shows and police stations. Carry is also prohibited at banks, hospitals, public transit facilities, churches, permitted public gatherings and any private business that does not post a sign allowing gun carry. But enforcement in these areas has been suspended by the courts until further notice. And any licensee is allowed to keep a handgun in a locked container in his vehicle while visiting a prohibited location.

Persons without California permits: Vehicle transport of a handgun is limited to an unloaded handgun *locked* in the trunk or permanently-affixed utility box. An unloaded handgun may also be transported in the passenger compartment if it is secured in a *locked* gun case. Handguns may not be kept in the glove compartment or console box. Rifles and shotguns must be unloaded but need not be in locked containers. Transportation in gun cases is recommended. "Loaded" is when ammunition is in a firearm's chamber or any attached magazine. Because the state's definition of "attached" is very broad, ammunition should be kept in separate containers.

Open carry of loaded or unloaded firearms on foot is prohibited in most public areas. Specific exceptions allow licensed hunters to carry firearms while engaged in hunting or shooting. And carry at campsites, temporary residences or "in camp" RVs is also lawful if it does not conflict with local or federal law. But hotel carry now requires "posted" consent by the owner to be lawful (enforcement currently suspended by court).

All Persons: California prevents localities from regulating licensing & registration of firearms. But local restrictions on carry are possible. And the state bans the possession and importation of over 10 shot magazines. This ruling, coupled with state restrictions on semi-automatic "assault weapons," .50 caliber center-fire rifles and ammunition sales, makes this once Reagan-voting, freedom-loving state a hellhole for gun owners.

Colorado

Total prohibition (-5, car carry rules & more “gun free” zones – the Rockies turn blue) Total freedom

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- *Standard firearms & ammo: no permit required for possession or sale – see p. 2
- *Semi-auto guns & high capacity magazines: over 15 shot magazines not possessed on 7/1/13 prohibited; semi-auto guns restricted in some localities such as Denver
- *Machine guns & suppressors: ownership lawful per federal law compliance
- *Firearm law uniformity: localities may restrict “on foot” carry, but vehicle carry is protected
- *Right of Self-Defense: NRA castle doctrine, but *stand your ground* in public not codified
- *Open carry: lawful under state law, but localities may regulate this aspect independently
- *Licensed concealed carry: licenses issued by sheriffs for 5-year terms to residents only
- *Constitutional or “no permit required” concealed carry: no
- *Out-of-state permit recognition: conditional recognition of permits from other states (see p. 65)
- *Weapons allowed for *licensed carry*: limited to handguns only
- *Vehicle carry by non-permittees: firearms may be lawfully carried anywhere in a vehicle; handguns may be loaded, rifles and shotguns must be unloaded – see below
- *Vehicle gun possession at colleges: lawful for permittees and their handguns only - see below
- *Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools: Colorado permittee w/loaded pistol lawful
- *Duty to notify LEO of permit status: upon demand of police officer
- *RV carry while “boondocking”: parking lot owners may restrict gun carry by visitors – see p.9
- *State Parks: concealed carry of handguns by recognized licensees permitted
- *Restaurants serving alcohol: permittees may carry while eating in dining areas – see p.3
- *Houses of Worship: gun carry O.K. unless premises is posted – see p. 3
- *Hotels: subject to hotel policy enforcement – see p.7
- *Airports: Denver Int’l prohibits most “on-foot” carry; but non-sterile areas of other airports O.K. – p.9
- *Highway Rest Areas: carry allowed in buildings and on grounds – see p.7



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Colorado’s demographic drift to the left is resulting in restrictive gun laws that were unthinkable just a few years ago. The once “red” state of Colorado is becoming increasingly progressive, and noticeably “blue.”

Recognized permittees: A license is required to carry a concealed handgun while on foot. Colorado does not issue permits to nonresidents but will recognize licenses issued by states that recognize Colorado permits. Out-of-state permittees must be at least 21 years old and residents of the state that issued the permit (as evidenced by a driver’s license) for their permits to be valid. Areas off-limits to permittees are listed below (*see All Persons*).

Persons without recognized permits: A loaded handgun may be carried for self-defense anywhere in a vehicle. Open carry is legitimate everywhere but Denver. The city mandates that all firearms in a vehicle remain concealed from view and any hunting weapons remain unloaded.

While on foot, a non-permittee engaged in lawful hunting activities may carry a concealed handgun. Colorado allows open carry in most public areas with three notable exceptions. Localities may prohibit the open carry of handguns in buildings and specific outdoor areas by posting conspicuous signs. Denver limits any personal carry on foot to those who carry concealed with recognized permits. And firearms carry on public transportation is prohibited unless one possesses a recognized license.

All Persons: Long guns may be in a vehicle if they are chamber-unloaded. But long guns in a snowmobile must also be chamber unloaded and secured in cases (loaded handgun carry is O.K.). And any gun left in an unattended vehicle must be *locked* in a hard-sided case (or glove compartment) that is also *locked* inside the car.

Colorado’s magazine ban only affects over 15 shot magazines that were not lawfully owned prior to July 1, 2013. Magazines purchased or possessed before this date are lawful.

Some cities, such as Denver and Boulder, restrict possession of semi-auto weapons by their residents. But nonresidents transporting such weapons through these areas in private vehicles are exempt from enforcement.

Open carry is lawful, but becoming increasingly rare due to the state’s weakened preemption law. Many “blue” cities are prohibiting “on foot” carry by anyone in numerous public places (watch for postings).

And areas prohibited to all carry (open or concealed) include polling & count facilities, courthouses, local governing offices, public buildings w/security screenings, state legislative buildings, child care centers, K-12 schools and colleges. A permittee may still carry a handgun within his car in the parking areas of these locations.

Connecticut

Total prohibition (-2, costs & requirements for non-resident permits increase)

Total freedom

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- *Standard firearms & ammo: permit or certificate required for all transfers of guns and ammo
- *Semi-auto guns & high capacity magazines: importation of any over 10 shot magazine or any "assault weapon" (anything that looks remotely military) is prohibited
- *Machine guns & suppressors: heavily restricted, importation of machine guns prohibited; "bump stocks" prohibited; suppressor ownership lawful per federal law compliance
- *Firearm law uniformity: no preemption statute; local laws may exist in some areas
- *Right of Self-Defense: no NRA-model castle doctrine, *duty to retreat* in public areas
- *Open carry: prohibited in all public areas to everyone, including Connecticut permittees
- *Licensed concealed carry: licenses issued to residents and nonresidents
- *Constitutional or "no permit required" concealed carry: no
- *Out-of-state permit recognition: no general recognition of out-of-state carry permits
- *Weapons allowed for *licensed carry*: limited to handguns only
- *Vehicle carry by non-permittees: handgun carry prohibited unless an exception exists; loaded rifles and shotguns prohibited (see below)
- *Vehicle gun possession at colleges: subject to college administrative policy
- *Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools: firearm possession prohibited
- *Duty to notify LEO of permit status: upon demand of police officer
- *RV carry while "boondocking": parking lot owners may restrict gun carry by visitors – see p.9
- *State Parks: firearms carry prohibited
- *Restaurants serving alcohol: permittees may carry while eating in dining areas – see p.3
- *Houses of Worship: gun carry O.K. unless premises is posted – see p.3
- *Hotels: subject to policy enforcement & "force of law" posting prohibitions (possible felony) – see p. 7
- *Airports: carry in non-sterile terminal areas & parking lots O.K., but watch for local postings – see p.9
- *Highway Rest Areas: Connecticut permittee carry allowed in buildings and on grounds – see p. 7



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Connecticut's gun laws have become more severe over the last twenty years. While residents and nonresidents alike may acquire handgun carry permits through the state police, anyone who lacks a Connecticut permit faces an unfriendly environment for gun carry.

Connecticut permittees: Vehicle carry of any handgun requires a Connecticut carry permit. The state police issue these permits to residents after a temporary permit is obtained by the resident from his hometown. Any U. S. citizen with a carry license issued by another state may apply directly to the state police for a Connecticut permit. These licenses are valid for five years and only allow *concealed* carry. The state further requires all permittees to keep their handguns in "locked" compartments when their vehicles are unoccupied.

And, aside from the state prohibiting carry in K-12 schools, state parks & forests and the State Capitol, localities enforce their own gun laws. Cities enforce ordinances that restrict carry. So watch for postings.

Persons without Connecticut permits: Vehicle carry of a handgun is prohibited without a Connecticut permit. Exceptions exist which allow the transport of unloaded handguns in locked containers from place of purchase to home, etc. But general car carry is prohibited.

Long guns in a vehicle must be unloaded and, in the case of a resident with a grandfathered assault weapon, locked in a case or trunk with a certificate of registration. The courts have interpreted Connecticut law very strictly with regards to the vehicle transport of firearms. Non-resident travelers should only possess firearms that are securely cased and unloaded per McClure-Volkmer (p. 5) or state statute 29-38d that mirrors the federal law.

A nonresident with a carry permit from his home state may travel to an officially recognized gun competition or collectors exhibition if he transports his unloaded handgun in a *locked* case or in the vehicle's trunk or inaccessible storage area. He should also have proof of the event (ie. registration form).

All Persons: Lack of state preemption means that most localities have ordinances prohibiting carry in public parks and government buildings. All ammunition and gun transfers require a permit or certificate issued by Connecticut. And importation into the state of any "semi-automatic assault weapon," over 10 shot magazine, machine gun or "bump stock" is prohibited.

Delaware

Total prohibition (-5, gun carry banned at colleges; permit required to purchase pistol) Total freedom

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CHECKLIST

- ***Standard firearms & ammo:** permit required for purchase of a handgun – see p.2
- ***Semi-auto guns & high capacity magazines:** military-pattern guns prohibited from entering state, any over 17 shot magazine prohibited unless one possesses a Delaware carry license
- ***Machine guns & suppressors:** personal ownership prohibited; bump stocks prohibited
- ***Firearm law uniformity:** state preemption law, pre-85 laws grandfathered; localities have power to enact new laws regulating open carry in local gov't bldgs.
- ***Right of Self-Defense:** no NRA-model castle doctrine, *duty to retreat* in public areas
- ***Open carry:** lawful under state law, but local ordinances prohibiting open carry may exist
- ***Licensed concealed carry:** licenses issued to residents only
- ***Constitutional or “no permit required” concealed carry:** no
- ***Out-of-state permit recognition:** conditional recognition of permits from other states (see p. 65)
- ***Weapons allowed for licensed concealed carry:** include any lawful deadly weapon
- ***Vehicle carry by non-permittees:** a loaded handgun may be carried openly or secured in the trunk; rifles and shotguns must be unloaded while in a vehicle
- ***Vehicle gun possession at colleges:** permittee w/loaded handgun lawful
- ***Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools:** Delaware permittee w/loaded handgun lawful
- ***Duty to notify LEO of permit status:** upon demand of police officer
- ***RV carry while “boondocking”:** parking lot owners may restrict gun carry by visitors – see p.9
- ***State Parks:** Delaware permittee may carry anywhere in park; other permittees limited – see below
- ***Restaurants serving alcohol:** permittees may carry while eating in dining areas – see p.3
- ***Houses of Worship:** gun carry O.K. unless premises is posted – see p. 3
- ***Hotels:** subject to hotel policy enforcement – see p.7
- ***Airports:** carry in non-sterile terminal areas & parking lots O.K., but watch for local postings – see p.9
- ***Highway Rest Areas:** carry allowed in buildings and on grounds – see p. 7

Red Flag Law!

VEHICLES

Delaware's proximity to northeast liberalism is causing this once moderate state to become increasingly unfriendly toward guns. In 2022, the state enacted an “assault weapons” ban and a prohibition on all mags over 17 shots. In 2024, a college carry ban took effect. Delaware is fast-becoming a state for gun owners to avoid.

Recognized permittees: The state requires a license to carry a concealed firearm. Such permits are issued to residents through the local superior court of each county and allow the concealed, loaded carry of a handgun within a vehicle or on foot in most public areas. Licenses are initially granted for a period of three years and can then be renewed for five years. Delaware does not issue permits to nonresidents but recognizes licenses of nonresidents from states that provide reasonably similar standards for issuance and also recognize Delaware's permits. Permittees may carry firearms in most public areas of the state (see “all persons” for prohibitions).

Persons without recognized permits: A loaded handgun may be in a vehicle if the weapon is in plain view (ie. seat or dashboard) or stored in an inaccessible area such as the trunk. Handguns *may not* be carried in the glove compartment or console box or concealed anywhere on or about one's person.

While on foot, a handgun may be carried openly in a visible belt holster. Because carrying a concealed weapon without a license is a felony, non-licensed travelers who carry openly should exercise caution while carrying. State preemption is broad enough to prohibit most local gun regulation. But ordinances predating 1985 are grandfathered. And localities are empowered to enact new carry restrictions for their govt. buildings.

All Persons: Long guns must be unloaded when transported in any vehicle. Although permittees are allowed to carry any firearm, long guns are further regulated by hunting laws and must remain unloaded in a car. Any firearm left in an unattended vehicle must also be in a container, trunk or glove compartment that is *locked*.

Most military-pattern semi-autos (assault weapons) and magazines over 17 shots are prohibited. Residents with Delaware carry licenses may continue to possess over 17 shot mags. And residents who owned assault weapons prior to the ban may continue to own them. But out-of-state travelers should leave these items behind.

Gun carry is prohibited in courthouses, police offices, K-12 schools & colleges (permittees in cars O.K.), & polling locations during elections (must be posted). Delaware permittees may carry in most areas of state parks & forests. But out-of-state permittees & non-permittees are barred from carry in buildings & campgrounds.



District of Columbia

Total prohibition (+0, despite permit issuance, the capitol is unfriendly for gun owners) **Total freedom**

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- ***Standard firearms & ammo:** restricted, guns & ammo prohibited absent D.C. issued certificate
- ***Semi-auto guns & high capacity magazines:** prohibited; ownership of any military-pattern weapon or over 10-shot magazine unlawful
- ***Machine guns & suppressors:** ownership prohibited; bump stocks prohibited
- ***Firearm law uniformity:** laws are uniformly strict throughout the district
- ***Right of Self-Defense:** no NRA-model castle doctrine; duty to retreat based on case law (although not explicit, duty to retreat exists for most public places)
- ***Open carry:** prohibited anywhere in the District
- ***Licensed concealed carry:** licenses issued to residents & non-residents by police
- ***Constitutional or “no permit required” concealed carry:** no
- ***Out-of-state permit recognition:** no recognition of out-of-state carry permits
- ***Weapons allowed for licensed carry:** limited to handguns only
- ***Vehicle carry by non-permittees:** firearms must be unloaded, cased and locked in the trunk; vehicles without trunks may use locked containers (see below)
- ***Vehicle gun possession at colleges:** prohibited by law
- ***Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools:** firearm possession prohibited
- ***Duty to notify LEO of permit status:** immediately upon official contact
- ***RV carry while “boondocking”:** parking lot owners may restrict gun carry by visitors – see p.9
- ***State Parks:** n/a
- ***Restaurants serving alcohol:** permittees may carry in dining area unless posted
- ***Houses of Worship:** carry prohibited absent signage that affirmatively allows carry – see p.3
- ***Hotels:** subject to hotel policy enforcement & “force of law” posting prohibitions– see p.7
- ***Airports:** n/a (no airport in D.C. – see Virginia)
- ***Highway Rest Areas:** carry prohibited in buildings; car carry O.K. w/ D.C. permit – see p. 7



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In 2014, D.C. city council enacted emergency legislation providing for the issuance of concealed carry licenses to qualified persons. The resulting law was highly restrictive and practically ineffective. A recent U.S. Court of Appeals decision, however, coupled with the more recent Supreme Court ruling, found that this subjective licensing system violated the Second Amendment. D.C. has since been forced to adopt objective criteria for issuance while continuing to maintain highly-restrictive rules for where you can carry.

Washington D.C. permittees: A license is required to carry a concealed pistol on one’s person or in a vehicle. Such permits are issued by the Chief of Police to qualified persons who are at least 21 years old for 2 year terms. Until recently, applicants had to demonstrate a specific personal need for a license. This requirement has been struck down. And now D.C. is in the process of objectively granting permits.

The District will not recognize carry permits issued by other states but will issue permits to residents and non-residents. Licensees may only carry *concealed* handguns that are secured in holsters. They are also prohibited from carry in most public areas including government buildings, schools & colleges, churches, child care facilities, hospitals, public transportation (including Metrorail), public gatherings & demonstrations, bars, stadiums, public memorials, and all private residences (absent owner consent). Any licensee approaching these prohibited locations must either leave the area or immediately unload his handgun and secure it in his locked vehicle. Permittees must also declare their permit status upon any official contact with law enforcement.

Non-Residents without D.C. permits: Those without D.C. permits are prohibited from carrying any firearms or ammunition in the District. Such items may be transported *through* the District if the firearms are unloaded, cased and locked in the trunk or, in a vehicle without a trunk, secured in a locked container (other than a glove compartment or console box). Any ammunition must be separate from the guns. And the traveler may not stop anywhere in the District.

Recent reports indicate that persons have been arrested for having one spent ammunition cartridge in the passenger compartment of their vehicle. Anyone traveling *through* the District should exercise extreme caution when transporting firearms, ammunition or component parts (ie. high capacity magazines).

Florida



Total prohibition (+0, red state politics & good gun laws make it one of our best!)

Total freedom

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CHECKLIST

- *Standard firearms & ammo: no permit required for possession or sale – see p.2
- *Semi-auto guns & high capacity magazines: no permit required for possession or sale
- *Machine guns & suppressors: lawful per federal law compliance; bump stocks prohibited
- *Firearm law uniformity: preemption law, localities may be fined for violations
- *Right of Self-Defense: NRA-model castle doctrine, *stand your ground* in public areas
- *Open carry: prohibited in all public areas; exceptions for fishing, hunting & camping
- *Licensed concealed carry: licenses issued to residents and nonresidents
- *Constitutional or “no permit required” concealed carry: yes
- *Out-of-state permit recognition: automatic recognition of all permits issued by home state of permittee
- *Weapons allowed for *licensed carry*: handguns, knives, stun guns, tear gas guns and billies
- *Vehicle carry by non-permittees: loaded handguns O.K. for those 21 & older; persons 18 & older may have loaded long guns; persons under 21 must “securely encase” handguns
- *Vehicle gun possession at colleges: lawful for any gun owner at all public universities
- *Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools: firearms prohibited by most local districts
- *Duty to notify LEO of permit/carry status: upon demand of police officer
- *RV carry while “boondocking”: parking lot owners may *not* prohibit guns in vehicles – see p.9
- *State Parks: concealed handgun carry by recognized licensees permitted
- *Restaurants serving alcohol: permittees may carry while eating in dining areas – see p.3
- *Houses of Worship: gun carry O.K. unless premises is posted – see p.3
- *Hotels: subject to hotel policy enforcement – see p.7
- *Airports: carry prohibited in passenger terminals; car carry in parking lots O.K. – see p.9
- *Highway Rest Areas: carry allowed in buildings and on grounds – see p. 7



VEHICLES

Florida's popularity as a vacation destination draws many visitors each year. These people will be pleased to know that Florida's new permitless carry laws make trips to the Sunshine state more hassle-free than ever!

Recognized permittees: Even with permitless carry, Florida still issues licenses to qualified persons 21 and older for seven-year terms. These permits allow the *concealed* carry of handguns, knives, stun guns, tear gas guns and billies and are available to both residents and nonresidents. Florida will also recognize all out-of-state permits as long as the permittees have immediate possession of their permits, reside in the state where the permit was issued and are at least 21 years old (at least 18 if veteran or service member). Florida prohibits carry in most universally restricted areas (see p. 6) as well as scholastic and professional athletic events not related to firearms, courthouses, police stations, polling places, meetings of governing bodies, K-12 schools, college campuses, career centers, mental health facilities, airport terminals, bars and places of nuisance (illegal gambling and prostitution houses). Carry in churches is allowed unless prohibited by church leadership.

Persons without recognized permits: Any person 21 or older who is law-abiding (qualified for a Florida permit) and possesses a valid I.D. may carry a concealed weapon without a permit in most public areas. The weapon must remain concealed (no open carry) and the carrier must abide by the same “place” restrictions mandated for licensees (see previous paragraph). Carry of a loaded handgun on your person in a private vehicle is also allowed if you are at least 21 and possess a valid ID. Anyone 18 or older can transport loaded rifles or shotguns anywhere in a private vehicle. But if someone under 21 carries a handgun in a vehicle, the weapon must be *securely encased* or *otherwise not readily accessible*. This would include carry in a snapped holster (off one's person), glove compartment, gun case or a closed container. And carry by that same person on a public conveyance (ie. train) is allowed if the weapon is securely encased and not in his manual possession.

All Persons: Open carry while on foot is prohibited in all public areas except when one is lawfully hunting, camping or fishing. This prohibition includes licensees and non-licensees. The state also prohibits most businesses from preventing customers or employees from possessing firearms in their locked vehicles while those vehicles are parked on company grounds. Florida's preemption law prevents localities from regulating most aspects of firearm ownership and provides penalties for any locality's willful infringement. With the exception of some zoning laws, firearm regulation is uniform in the state.



Georgia

Total prohibition (+0, the empire state of the South leads the way in good gun laws!) Total freedom

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- *Standard firearms & ammo: no permit required for possession or sale – see p. 2
- *Semi-auto guns & high capacity magazines: no permit required for possession or sale
- *Machine guns & suppressors: ownership lawful per federal law compliance
- *Firearm law uniformity: preemption law, firearm laws uniform throughout state
- *Right of Self-Defense: NRA-model castle doctrine, *stand your ground* in public areas
- *Open carry: lawful in most public areas, some exceptions – see below
- *Licensed concealed carry: licenses issued to residents only
- *Constitutional or “no permit required” concealed carry: yes
- *Out-of-state permit recognition: automatic recognition for all nonresidents with carry permits
- *Weapons allowed for *licensed carry*: limited to handguns and knives
- *Vehicle carry by non-permittees: loaded firearms may be anywhere in a private vehicle
- *Vehicle gun possession at colleges: O.K. for any *lawful weapons carrier* - (see below)
- *Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools: Georgia permittee w/loaded handgun lawful
- *Duty to notify LEO of permit/carry status: upon demand of police officer
- *RV carry while “boondocking”: parking lot owners may *not* prohibit guns in vehicles – see p.9
- *State Parks: handgun carry by *lawful weapons carriers* permitted
- *Restaurants serving alcohol: *lawful weapons carriers* may carry while eating in dining areas – see p.3
- *Houses of Worship: carry prohibited unless allowed by governing body of church – see p.3
- *Hotels: subject to hotel policy enforcement – see p.7
- *Airports: carry allowed in non-sterile terminal areas and parking lots – see p.9
- *Highway Rest Areas: carry allowed in buildings and on grounds – see p. 7

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Despite Atlanta, Georgia still maintains a distinctly rural character for guns. The state’s 2022 passage of constitutional carry and universal permit recognition help rank the “Peach state” as one of the nation’s best.

Recognized permittees: The passage of permitless carry did not end the granting of licenses in Georgia. The state still issues permits through the probate court of an applicant's home county to qualified persons 21 years or older for five year terms. The state does not issue permits to nonresidents but recognizes all out-of-state permits held by nonresidents. And military persons may use their military IDs as defacto licenses. Licenses are beneficial when traveling to other states and while exercising carry rights in K-12 school zones.

Persons without recognized permits: Any non-permittee that qualifies for, but does not possess, a Georgia weapons license may carry a loaded firearm (handgun, rifle or shotgun) in his home, vehicle, business, and most public areas as a “lawful weapons carrier.” He must be at least 21 years old (18 if in the military) and *not be* a felon, illegal drug user or patient at a mental hospital or drug treatment center. And, even though Georgia mandates in-state residency for license issuance, that requirement is waived for permitless carry. So any nonresident may also exercise this option and carry without a permit.

All Persons: Licensees and *lawful weapons carriers* may carry firearms in most public areas. Prohibited places include churches (unless allowed by church), school safety zones (K-12 & certain prohibited areas of colleges), courthouses, mental health facilities, within 150 feet of polling locations during elections, nuclear power facilities, businesses that post signs and state & local government buildings with security screenings. Concealed handgun carry is now allowed in many outdoor areas of colleges but remains prohibited for most buildings including student housing, childcare centers and athletic facilities.

Parking lots for most of the above-named areas are O.K. if the licensee keeps his firearm locked in his vehicle. But those without Georgia permits are still prohibited by federal law from having *loaded* handguns in their vehicles when entering K-12 school zones. And some secure facilities, such as nuclear power plants, may initiate security screenings upon entering their parking lots. Fortunately, any lawful weapons carrier who forgets he has his weapon may notify security before entering of the weapon’s presence. If he follows the instructions of security, he will avoid any potential charges.

And while it is lawful to carry a handgun in parks, historic sites, and recreational & wildlife management areas, long guns in these places should remain unloaded so as not to run afoul of laws regulating hunting.

Hawaii



Total prohibition (-2, ammo banned for persons under 21; court strikes bank carry ban)

Total freedom

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- *Standard firearms & ammo: restricted, registration required within 72 hrs of arrival; ammo must be kept at home unless transported in a closed container to target range, repair place, etc
- *Semi-auto guns & high capacity magazines: "assault pistols" & over 10 shot pistol mags. prohibited
- *Machine guns & suppressors: personal ownership prohibited; bump stocks prohibited
- *Firearm law uniformity: no preemption law, localities may enact their own gun laws
- *Right of Self-Defense: no NRA-model castle doctrine, *duty to retreat* in public areas
- *Open carry: prohibited in all public areas unless one has a Hawaii "open carry" permit
- *Licensed concealed carry: licenses issued by local police chief, valid for 4 years
- *Constitutional or "no permit required" concealed carry: no
- *Out-of-state permit recognition: no recognition of out-of-state carry permits
- *Weapons allowed for licensed carry: limited to handguns only
- *Vehicle carry by non-permittees: firearms prohibited in vehicles (see below for exceptions)
- *Vehicle gun possession at colleges: firearms prohibited on all properties
- *Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools: firearms prohibited on all properties
- *Duty to notify LEO of permit status: immediately upon official contact
- *RV carry while "boondocking": parking lot owners may restrict gun carry by visitors – see p.9
- *State Parks: loaded firearms carry & possession prohibited
- *Restaurants serving alcohol: carry prohibited wherever alcohol is served – see p.3
- *Houses of Worship: carry prohibited unless church grants permission (local rules may also apply) – p.3
- *Hotels: "informed consent" rule applies, hotel must post sign "allowing" gun possession – see p. 7
- *Airports: carry prohibited in all buildings, grounds and parking lots – see p.9
- *Highway Rest Areas: carry prohibited in buildings – see p. 7



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Although it is doubtful anyone would ever take a "road trip" to Hawaii (absent construction of a very long bridge), travelers may still be curious about the state's regulation of firearms. Hawaii has very strict laws in this regard; making gun possession & carry, especially by non-residents, next to impossible.

Hawaii permittees: A permit is required to carry a loaded handgun on one's person or in a vehicle. Hawaii residents who are at least 21 and also citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. may apply to any police chief for a permit that is valid throughout the state for 4 years. These licenses only allow the carry of *concealed* handguns. *Open* carry permits are available but rarely issued. And out-of-state permits are not recognized.

Carry is severely limited. Most public venues (including govt. bldgs., medical facilities, bars, restaurants serving alcohol, stadiums, theaters, libraries, colleges, K-12 schools, parks, playgrounds, polling places, transit hubs (ie. airports, bus terminals, etc.), zoos, banks (*ban suspended by court*), amusement parks, public gatherings, etc) are off-limits to gun carry. Even parking areas are included in most of these bans. And, worst of all, private properties (most businesses) must affirmatively allow carry by posting signs acknowledging such.

Any gun left in a car must be in a *locked* and hidden "safe storage depository." The trunk or glove compartment alone would not qualify. And exceptions for vehicle gun possession in prohibited areas are, at best, affirmative defenses. This means you may still be arrested and forced to prove your innocence at trial.

Persons without Hawaii permits: It is unlawful to carry firearms or ammunition in a vehicle unless one has a Hawaii permit. A legal exception exists which allows the transport of unloaded and securely cased firearms from the point of purchase to home or from home to a firing range, police station, place of formal hunter/shooter education or repair shop. Ammunition kept in enclosed containers may also be transported within these parameters. Concealed or open carry of a firearm by anyone on foot is strictly prohibited unless one is engaged in lawful hunting with a proper permit. A hunter may then carry an unconcealed, loaded pistol as long as that pistol and its ammunition have been approved for hunting in accordance with state statutes.

All Persons: All firearms must be registered within 72 hours of entering the state. Persons possessing these guns must be at least 21. Personal ownership of all Class III items (ie. machined guns) is prohibited. Assault pistols such as the TEC-9 and M-11 are prohibited along with any high capacity pistol magazine capable of holding more than ten rounds. And, despite the elimination of discretionary permit issuance, Hawaii's lack of preemption has fostered an avalanche of local carry restrictions that may not be clearly posted.



Idaho

Total prohibition (+3, gun carry at private events held on public property protected) Total freedom

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- *Standard firearms & ammo: no permit required for possession or sale – p.2
- *Semi-auto guns & high capacity magazines: no permit required for possession or sale
- *Machine guns & suppressors: ownership lawful per federal law compliance
- *Firearm law uniformity: preemption law, firearm laws uniform throughout state
- *Right of Self-Defense: NRA-model castle doctrine, *stand your ground* in public areas
- *Open carry: lawful in most public areas and generally accepted
- *Licensed concealed carry: licenses issued to residents and nonresidents
- *Constitutional or “no permit required” concealed carry: yes – see below
- *Out-of-state permit recognition: automatic recognition of carry permits from all other states
- *Weapons allowed for licensed carry: include any lawful deadly weapon
- *Vehicle carry by non-permittees: deadly weapons (including loaded handguns, rifles and shotguns) may be carried anywhere in a motor vehicle
- *Vehicle gun possession at colleges: lawful for ID enhanced permittees & retired LEOs
- *Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools: Idaho permittee w/loaded handgun lawful
- *Duty to notify LEO of permit/carry status: upon demand of police officer
- *RV carry while “boondocking”: parking lot owners may restrict gun carry by visitors – see p.9
- *State Parks: concealed handgun carry by U.S. citizens 18 & older permitted
- *Restaurants serving alcohol: U.S. citizens 18 & older may carry while eating in dining areas – see p.3
- *Houses of Worship: gun carry O.K. unless premises is posted – see p.3
- *Hotels: statutory allowance for guest rejection or ejection for gun possession – see p.7
- *Airports: carry allowed in non-sterile terminal areas and parking lots – see p.9
- *Highway Rest Areas: carry allowed in buildings and on grounds – see p. 7

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Idaho’s frontier heritage and “permitless carry” for any U.S. citizen provides the traveler with a gun-friendly environment while exploring the state’s northern panhandle. In Idaho, firearms are much like potatoes. Both are essential to defining the state’s classic character.

Recognized permittees: Idaho will issue both regular & enhanced concealed weapon permits through any county sheriff to qualified persons 21 years or older for 5 year terms. A non-resident must have a carry license from his home state to apply for the “enhanced” permit. These licenses (both regular & enhanced) allow the carry of most lawful deadly weapons. 18-20 year olds may apply for provisional permits that renew as enhanced permits. Idaho will issue permits to nonresidents as well as recognize any permit issued by another state.

Persons without recognized permits: Idaho allows the concealed carry of a deadly weapon without a license by any U.S. citizen who is over the age of 18 and would otherwise be eligible for a license (ie. no intervening legal issues like prior felony convictions). On foot, carry is allowed anywhere except the restricted areas enumerated in the “All persons” section below. In a vehicle, weapons may be concealed or carried openly anywhere including under the seat, the vehicle’s dash, glove compartment, console box or trunk.

All Persons: Idaho’s “permitless concealed carry” does not affect other aspects of the state’s gun laws. Open carry is still lawful throughout the state for those 18 or older. And everyone is still barred from carrying in jails, courthouses, K-12 schools and private businesses that post against carry. State universities may prohibit carry on their campuses through rules set forth by the colleges’ governing boards. But Idaho exempts enhanced permittees and retired LEOs from these regulations. Retired LEOs may carry just about anywhere on a campus while “enhanced” permittees are limited to outdoor areas. Indoor areas such as dormitories and entertainment facilities would still be off-limits unless one was a retired LEO certified for carry.

Idaho prevents localities from regulating most aspects of firearms ownership. But parking lot protections only extend to limiting employer liability. Lots may still be posted against gun possession and carry.

And private parties holding events on public property may not restrict gun carry by participants unless the event has restricted access, charges admission or is by invitation only.

Illinois



Total prohibition (+0, permits are issued, but many gun-free zones make carry tough) **Total freedom**

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- ***Standard firearms & ammo:** restricted, firearm identification card required for residents
- ***Semi-auto guns & high capacity magazines:** firearm identification card required for residents; “assault weapons” & high capacity magazines prohibited (see “All Persons” below)
- ***Machine guns or suppressors:** personal ownership prohibited; bump stocks prohibited
- ***Firearm law uniformity:** preemption law, handgun regulation preempted; laws regulating laser sights still exist in some cities such as Chicago, Cicero & Thornton
- ***Right of Self-Defense:** no NRA castle doctrine, *stand your ground* in public not codified
- ***Open carry:** prohibited in all public areas
- ***Licensed concealed carry:** licenses issued to residents & nonresidents from certain states
- ***Constitutional or “no permit required” concealed carry:** no
- ***Out-of-state permit recognition:** no recognition of out-of-state carry permits
- ***Weapons allowed for licensed carry:** limited to handguns only
- ***Vehicle carry by non-residents:** any nonresident who has a carry permit issued by his home state may carry a loaded handgun in his vehicle; long guns must remain unloaded and cased if the possessor has a carry permit or a FOID card; if the nonresident lacks a permit, he must also stow any firearms or ammo in the trunk in an unloaded and cased condition
- ***Vehicle gun possession at colleges:** lawful for permittees, but subject to college policy
- ***Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools:** Illinois permittee w/loaded handgun lawful
- ***Duty to notify LEO of permit status:** upon demand of police officer
- ***RV carry while “boondocking”:** some exemptions for permittees, but lot postings still exist: p.9
- ***State Parks:** concealed handgun carry by Illinois licensees permitted in most outdoor areas
- ***Restaurants serving alcohol:** permittees may carry while eating in dining areas – p.3
- ***Houses of Worship:** gun carry O.K. unless premises is posted – see p.3
- ***Hotels:** subject to hotel policy enforcement & “force of law” posting prohibitions – see p.7
- ***Airports:** carry prohibited on all property; car carry O.K. if gun is in closed compartment of locked car
- ***Highway Rest Areas:** carry prohibited in buildings and on grounds – car carry by permittees O.K. – p.7



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Despite Illinois’ right-to-carry law (replete with numerous carry restrictions), the state has taken a decidedly prohibitive direction under its current governor. The “Land of Lincoln” is quickly becoming the “Land of Lenin.”

Illinois permittees: A license is required to carry a loaded handgun concealed on or about one’s person in public or in a vehicle. Illinois does not recognize out-of-state permits, but will issue permits to nonresidents from Arkansas, Idaho, Mississippi, Nevada, Texas and Virginia for a \$300.00 fee.

An Illinois permittee is quite limited as to where he can carry. Prohibited areas include childcare facilities, govt. buildings (including rest areas), courts, K-12 schools, hospitals, nursing homes, buses & trains, bars, permitted public gatherings, special events serving alcohol, playgrounds, local parks & athletic areas, colleges, casinos, stadiums, amusement parks, airports, libraries, museums, zoos & private properties that prohibit carry. All these places must be posted. And while most outdoor areas of DNR property (state parks, etc.) are O.K. for carry, buildings and all locations within a state refuge or nature preserve are off-limits. Permittees must keep their handguns in the trunk or glove compartment of their locked vehicles while visiting any of these areas.

Non-residents: A non-resident who can legally carry a gun in public in his home state may carry a concealed, loaded handgun in his vehicle. This would include the passenger compartment of a car or the lockable container of a motorcycle. Only nonresidents with carry permits from their home states may practically exercise this option. If the non-resident leaves his car, it must be locked and the handgun stored in a closed compartment.

All Persons: Long guns in a vehicle must remain cased and unloaded regardless of permit status. If a nonresident lacks a valid permit, he must also stow these weapons and any ammo in the trunk. Illinois prohibits open carry and “assault weapons” (semi-automatics that look military) and over 10 shot magazines for long guns and over 15-shot magazines for handguns. “Grandfather exceptions” exist for residents who keep these items at home. And non-residents may transport “assault weapons” through the state for no more than a 24-hour period if the guns are unloaded, cased and separate from any ammunition. But specific transport exceptions for non-residents possessing hi-capacity magazines do not exist. Travelers should leave these items behind.



Indiana

Total prohibition (+0, no-hassle licenses & permitless carry – it doesn't get much better!) Total freedom

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- *Standard firearms & ammo: no permit required for possession or sale – see p.2
- *Semi-auto guns & high capacity magazines: no permit required for possession or sale
- *Machine guns & suppressors: ownership lawful per federal law compliance
- *Firearm law uniformity: preemption law, localities may be sued for violations
- *Right of Self-Defense: NRA-model castle doctrine, *stand your ground* in public areas
- *Open carry: lawful in most public areas; some exceptions, see below
- *Licensed concealed carry: licenses issued to residents and qualifying nonresidents
- *Constitutional or “no permit required” concealed carry: yes
- *Out-of-state permit recognition: automatic recognition for nonresidents with carry permits
- *Weapons allowed for *licensed carry*: limited to handguns only
- *Vehicle carry by non-permittees: loaded handguns may be carried anywhere in vehicle; loaded long guns generally O.K., but must be cased & unloaded in certain areas – see below
- *Vehicle gun possession at colleges: subject to college administrative policy
- *Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools: Indiana permittee w/loaded handgun lawful
- *Duty to notify LEO of permit/carry status: upon demand of police officer
- *RV carry while “boondocking”: parking lot owners may restrict gun carry by visitors – see p.9
- *State Parks: handgun carry by any person 18 or older permitted
- *Restaurants serving alcohol: persons 18 & older may carry while eating in dining areas – see p.3
- *Houses of Worship: gun carry O.K. unless premises is posted (churches on school property O.K.) – p.3
- *Hotels: subject to hotel policy enforcement – see p.7
- *Airports: carry allowed in non-sterile terminal areas and parking lots – see p.9
- *Highway Rest Areas: carry allowed in buildings and on grounds – see p. 7



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Indiana has one of America's oldest carry laws. Since 1935, the state has allowed residents and nonresidents with regular places of employment or business in the state to obtain licenses to carry loaded handguns for personal protection. Indiana recently took this freedom one step further by enacting permitless carry.

Recognized permittees: Despite permitless carry, Indiana still issues licenses that are valid for five years and allow both concealed and open carry. Residents, and non-residents who work in Indiana, are eligible. Residents may also apply for lifetime carry licenses. Such permits are valid for the applicant's life and, as with the 5-year permits, prove helpful when traveling out-of-state. Nonresidents with out-of-state permits are granted automatic recognition for handgun carry but must comply with whatever restrictions exist on their out-of-state permits. If the permit requires the handgun to remain concealed, then it must remain concealed even though Indiana law allows open carry. This aspect has been rendered somewhat moot by permitless carry.

Persons without recognized permits: Any person 18 or older who is not otherwise prohibited from possessing a firearm may carry a handgun openly or concealed in most public areas (see *All Persons*). Vehicle carry of a loaded handgun is also lawful with placement anywhere in the passenger compartment or trunk O.K.

All Persons: Firearms carry is prohibited on riverboat casinos, K-12 schools (unless attending worship service at a church located on school property) and the state fair. These areas are off-limits unless the gun is stored in the glove compartment or trunk of a locked vehicle. The Indiana government center, horse race tracks, shipping ports and Falls of the Ohio state park are also off-limits, with no allowances for car carry. And federal law requires a resident license for possession of a loaded handgun in a K-12 school zone (including within a car).

Indiana's preemption law makes local regulation of carry issues virtually non-existent. Localities may still prohibit carry in courthouses, hospitals and some special events. But attempting regulation anywhere else could result in stiff legal sanctions against the locality.

Vehicle carry of loaded long guns is allowed in most places except property owned by Indiana's Dept. of Nat'l Resources. Long guns should be unloaded and cased on DNR property. And long guns in an ATV or snowmobile must be unloaded and cased regardless of location (loaded handgun carry O.K.)

Employees of most businesses may keep firearms in their vehicles while parked on company property. The guns must be stored out-of-sight in the glove compartment or trunk. And while this law protects *employees* from adverse action by the landowner, other invitees such as customers & guests are still subject to “no gun” policies.

Iowa



Total prohibition (+1, *preemption law further strengthened w/enhanced penalties*)

Total freedom

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CHECKLIST

- ***Standard firearms & ammo:** no permit required for possession or sale – see p.2
- ***Semi-auto guns & high capacity magazines:** no permit required for possession or sale
- ***Machine guns & suppressors:** machine gun ownership prohibited; suppressor ownership OK
- ***Firearm law uniformity:** preemption law, gun laws uniform; localities may be sued for violations
- ***Right of Self-Defense:** NRA-model castle doctrine, *stand your ground* in public areas
- ***Open carry:** lawful in most public areas per Iowa’s constitutional carry law
- ***Licensed concealed carry:** licenses issued by sheriffs to residents only; “professional” permits issued to non-residents through Dept. of Public Safety
- ***Constitutional or “no permit required” concealed carry:** yes
- ***Out-of-state permit recognition:** automatic recognition for all nonresidents with carry permits
- ***Weapons allowed for licensed carry:** any rifle, shotgun, handgun, knife, taser or stun gun
- ***Vehicle carry by non-permittees:** loaded handguns may be carried openly or concealed; rifles and shotguns should remain cased and unloaded – see below
- ***Vehicle gun possession at colleges:** prohibited by law
- ***Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools:** firearms generally prohibited, except unloaded firearms may be stowed in locked container of passenger compartment or trunk
- ***Duty to notify LEO of permit/carry status:** upon demand of police officer
- ***RV carry while “boondocking”:** parking lot owners may restrict gun carry by visitors – see p.9
- ***State Parks:** concealed handgun carry by recognized licensees permitted
- ***Restaurants serving alcohol:** permittees may carry while eating in dining areas – see p.3
- ***Houses of Worship:** gun carry O.K. unless premises is posted – see p.3
- ***Hotels:** statutory allowance for guest rejection or ejection for gun possession – see p.7
- ***Airports:** carry allowed in non-sterile terminal areas and parking lots – see p.9
- ***Highway Rest Areas:** carry allowed in buildings and on grounds – see p. 7

VEHICLES

Iowa’s recent enactment of constitutional carry moves the state to America’s top tier of good gun states. And while Iowans have always had a close connection to firearms, the new law ensures this tradition continues.

Recognized permittees: Despite not being required, licenses to carry loaded firearms in a vehicle or on one’s person while on foot are still available. The state issues professional & non-professional licenses. Non-professional licenses are granted through the sheriff of one’s home county to any qualified resident who is at least 21. They are valid for 5 years and allow open or concealed carry of any firearm in most public areas.

Professional licenses are granted to residents through their local sheriff and to non-residents through the Department of Public Safety. The professional licenses are available to anyone 18 years or older whose need to go armed arises out of their employment.

Even with permitless carry, possessing a permit provides the carrier with legitimacy that is easier to confirm as well as more out-of-state carry options. Iowa recognizes any valid, out-of-state permit so long as the permittee is not a resident of Iowa. This blanket recognition encourages mutual reciprocity for Iowa’s permits.

Persons without recognized permits: Any law-abiding person 21 years or older may carry a loaded handgun in a vehicle or on foot in most public areas. Loaded rifles & shotguns may also be carried on foot but should still be transported in a vehicle unloaded and cased unless one possesses a permit. Although the new permitless carry law includes rifles and shotguns, existing conservation laws that prohibit loaded long guns in vehicles (absent a permit) have yet to be modified and could cause statutory conflict.

Persons exercising permitless carry should avoid the “gun free zones” listed in the below paragraph. They should also be aware that they are under a statutory duty to cooperate with police if their behavior while carrying creates a “reasonable suspicion” of danger to themselves or the public.

All Persons: Iowa prohibits carry by permittees and non-permittees in casinos, K-12 schools, the state fair, courthouses and state universities. *Concealed*, but not openly displayed, handguns are allowed at the State Capitol. And any open or concealed handgun carry is permitted while operating ATVs & snowmobiles.

Iowa prohibits the possession of machine guns for most persons. The only exception is for historical reenactors who use guns classified as “curios & relics” which have been rendered inoperable.

Kansas

Total prohibition

(+0, Jayhawkers set the bar for good gun laws in the Midwest)

Total freedom

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- ***Standard firearms & ammo:** no permit required for possession or sale – see p. 2
- ***Semi-auto guns & high capacity magazines:** no permit required for possession or sale
- ***Machine guns & suppressors:** ownership lawful per federal law compliance
- ***Firearm law uniformity:** preemption law, firearm laws uniform throughout state
- ***Right of Self-Defense:** NRA-model castle doctrine, *stand your ground* in public areas
- ***Open carry:** lawful under state law; localities may still prohibit carry in certain bldgs.
- ***Licensed concealed carry:** licenses issued by Attorney General to residents only
- ***Constitutional or “no permit required” concealed carry:** yes - see below
- ***Out-of-state permit recognition:** automatic recognition for all nonresidents with carry permits
- ***Weapons allowed for licensed carry:** limited to handguns only
- ***Vehicle carry by non-permittees:** loaded firearms may be carried anywhere in a vehicle by law-abiding persons 21 years and older
- ***Vehicle gun possession at colleges:** handgun possession lawful for any gun owner
- ***Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools:** Kansas permittee w/loaded handgun lawful
- ***Duty to notify LEO of permit/carry status:** upon demand of police officer
- ***RV carry while “boondocking”:** parking lot owners may *not* prohibit guns in vehicles – see p.9
- ***State Parks:** concealed handgun carry by citizens 21 years and older lawful
- ***Restaurants serving alcohol:** concealed carry O.K. if premises are not “posted” – see p.3
- ***Houses of Worship:** gun carry O.K. unless premises is posted – see p.3
- ***Hotels:** subject to hotel policy enforcement – see p.7
- ***Airports:** carry allowed in non-sterile terminal areas and parking lots – see p.9
- ***Highway Rest Areas:** carry allowed in building and on grounds – see p. 7

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In 1892, citizens used their private arms to defeat the Dalton Gang’s attack on several banks in downtown Coffeyville. While exemplifying the best in Western self-reliance, this incident also explains why jayhawkers sport some of the best gun laws in the nation. Firearms have always had a positive impact in the state. And gun-owning travelers will find this mindset quite refreshing.

Recognized permittees: *Standard* concealed carry licenses are issued for 4 year terms to residents who are at least 21 years old. *Provisional* licenses are issued to those who are 18-20 years of age. Both licenses allow concealed handgun carry. And the provisional licenses also provide 18-20 year olds more carry options (such as carry at the state capitol). Even though those 21 & older no longer need carry permits, these licenses allow residents to enjoy reciprocity while traveling to other states and ensure that out-of-state permittees are granted recognition to carry concealed handguns in Kansas as long as they are not Kansas residents.

Prohibited places can include any private or public building that chooses to restrict carry. But the buildings *must* be posted with A.G. approved signage or, in certain instances, provide adequate security screenings for the prohibitions to be enforceable. State facilities may also regulate the manner of carry (ie. handguns must be holstered, etc.). But only the buildings, and not the parking lots, of these areas are subject to prohibitions or regulatory actions. Handguns kept in locked vehicles are lawful. And violations of carry restrictions in posted buildings are generally not considered criminal offenses.

Persons without recognized permits: Kansas no longer requires a license to carry a concealed firearm. A non-permittee who is 21 years or older may carry a loaded gun anywhere in his vehicle.

Open or concealed carry of a handgun while on foot is allowed in most public areas for those 21 and older. Hunters and fisherman are even granted statutory protection for carry while engaged in their pursuits. And most local ordinances regulating this have been eliminated. But property owners (both private and govt.) may still prohibit carry within their buildings by posting signs.

All Persons: Some prohibited areas, such as the state capitol and state offices, only allow carry of *concealed* handguns (by permittees or those 21 & older). And universities may even require chambers of guns to remain unloaded while visiting campus. Tribal lands (casinos, etc.) generally recognize licensees but may not extend the same courtesies to non-licensees. Rules vary by reservation.

Kentucky



Total prohibition

(+0, highest per capita gun ownership – need we say more!)

Total freedom

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- ***Standard firearms & ammo:** no permit required for possession or sale – see p.2
- ***Semi-auto guns & high capacity magazines:** no permit required for possession or sale
- ***Machine guns & suppressors:** ownership lawful per federal law compliance
- ***Firearm law uniformity:** preemption law, gun laws uniform; localities may be sued for violations
- ***Right of Self-Defense:** NRA-model castle doctrine, *stand your ground* in public areas
- ***Open carry:** lawful in most public areas and generally accepted
- ***Licensed concealed carry:** licenses issued by state police to residents only
- ***Constitutional or “no permit required” concealed carry:** yes – see below
- ***Out-of-state permit recognition:** automatic recognition for all non-residents with carry permits
- ***Weapons allowed for licensed carry:** include any lawful deadly weapon
- ***Vehicle carry by non-permittees:** loaded firearms may be carried anywhere in a vehicle
- ***Vehicle gun possession at colleges:** lawful for any gun owner
- ***Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools:** Kentucky permittee w/loaded handgun lawful (permittee must be a non-student)
- ***Duty to notify LEO of permit/carry status:** upon demand of police officer
- ***RV carry while “boondocking”:** parking lot owners may *not* prohibit guns in vehicles – see p.9
- ***State Parks:** concealed handgun carry by licensees and those 21 and older allowed
- ***Restaurants serving alcohol:** persons 21 & older may carry while eating in dining areas – see p.3
- ***Houses of Worship:** gun carry O.K. unless premises is posted – see p.3
- ***Hotels:** subject to hotel policy enforcement – see p.7
- ***Airports:** carry allowed in non-sterile terminal areas and parking lots – see p.9
- ***Highway Rest Areas:** carry allowed in buildings and on grounds – see p. 7

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One of America’s greatest statesmen was Kentucky’s own Henry Clay. Famous for arranging deals that delayed the inevitable conflict between North and South, he was known as the nation’s “great compromiser.” While still revered in the Bluegrass, his penchant for compromise would be in stark contrast to those tasked with crafting the state’s gun laws. When it comes to gun rights in Kentucky, there is no compromise.

Recognized permittees: Kentucky’s State Police issue licenses to carry concealed firearms, or other deadly weapons, through the sheriff of an applicant’s home county for five-year terms. Kentucky does not grant permits to nonresidents but will recognize any permit issued by another state as long as the permittee is not a resident of Kentucky. A recognized permittee may carry concealed in most public areas. Prohibited places include childcare centers, K-12 schools, bars, legislative meetings, law enforcement offices, and courthouses. Colleges, hospitals, local governments, and private businesses may also ban carry in their buildings by posting signs. But prohibitions in these areas are not criminal offenses.

Persons without recognized permits: Kentucky no longer requires a license to carry a firearm concealed. In 2019, the legislature enacted constitutional or “permitless” carry. Loaded firearms may now be carried anywhere in a vehicle. Hidden from view in a console box, glove compartment or under the seat or visibly displayed in a belt holster are all lawful carry modes for those without permits.

On foot, permitless concealed carry is allowed in most places where licensed carry is permitted. Permitless carriers must still abide by the same place restrictions noted above for licensees. And carry in your vehicle on K-12 school grounds would require a Kentucky-issued license to avoid running afoul of federal school zone restrictions (see p. 4).

Open carry of a firearm while on foot is also allowed in most public areas. Such carry is best limited to visible belt holsters secured on one’s hip. Kentucky’s strong preemption law now provides stiff penalties for any locality that attempts to regulate this activity.

All Persons: A property owner may not prohibit employees and customers from carrying firearms in their vehicles while the vehicles are parked on that owner’s property. Civil penalties exist for property owners who violate this mandate. Also, game wardens may not harass any sportsmen who carry firearms for self-defense while hunting or fishing.



Louisiana

Total prohibition

(+10, *permitless carry for all – the bayou only gets better!*)

Total freedom

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CHECKLIST

- *Standard firearms & ammo: no permit required for possession or sale – see p. 2
- *Semi-auto guns & high capacity magazines: no permit required for possession or sale
- *Machine guns & suppressors: ownership restricted to "war relic" machine guns; suppressor ownership lawful per federal law compliance
- *Firearm law uniformity: preemption law, gun laws uniform; localities may be sued for violations
- *Right of Self-Defense: NRA-model castle doctrine, *stand your ground* in public areas
- *Open carry: lawful in most public areas and generally accepted
- *Licensed concealed carry: licenses issued by state police to residents only
- *Constitutional or "no permit required" concealed carry: yes
- *Out-of-state permit recognition: conditional recognition of permits from other states (see p. 65)
- *Weapons allowed for licensed carry: limited to handguns only
- *Vehicle carry by non-permittees: loaded firearms may be carried anywhere in a vehicle
- *Vehicle gun possession at colleges: lawful for any gun owner
- *Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools: Louisiana permittee w/loaded handgun lawful
- *Duty to notify LEO of permit/carry status: immediately upon official contact
- *RV carry while "boondocking": parking lot owners may *not* prohibit guns in vehicles – see p.9
- *State Parks: concealed handgun carry by licensees & those 18 and older allowed
- *Restaurant serving alcohol: persons 18 & older may carry while eating in dining areas – see p.3
- *Houses of Worship: carry prohibited unless church leaders grant permission – see p.3
- *Hotels: subject to hotel policy enforcement & possible "force of law" posting prohibitions – see p.7
- *Airports: carry allowed in non-sterile terminal areas and parking lots -- see p.9
- *Highway Rest Areas: carry allowed in buildings and on grounds – see p. 7

VEHICLES

Louisiana's reputation as a "Sportsman's Paradise" reflects on its healthy respect for gun ownership. Its recent enactment of "permitless carry" for persons 18 & older guarantees the state's ranking as one of our best!

Recognized permittees: Louisiana will issue a license to carry a handgun concealed upon one's person through its Department of Public Safety to qualified residents who are 21 or older for five years or a lifetime, depending upon the choice of the applicant. Louisiana does not grant permits to nonresidents but will recognize licenses issued by states whose laws also recognize Louisiana permits. Recognized permittees must be at least 21 years old and may not be Louisiana residents. Permittees may carry in most public areas (see All Persons).

Persons without recognized permits: Anyone 18 or older may carry a loaded handgun openly or concealed while on foot in most public areas (see All Persons). He must still abide by the same "place" restrictions as a permittee and, as with permittees, may not be "under the influence" of alcohol or drugs.

Those 18 & older may also carry a firearm anywhere in a vehicle, including, but not limited to, glove compartments, console boxes, or seat pockets. Plain view carry in a snapped holster or other similar carry rig is O.K. And loaded long guns may be kept in commercial gun cases, gun racks or outside storage compartments.

All Persons: Permittees and those exercising "permitless carry" may not carry in police stations, jails, courthouses, polling places, parades & demonstrations, K-12 schools, the state capitol, public buildings used as meeting places for a governing authority, bars, and many parts of college campuses. Church carry is now O.K. if the church leader grants permission. And private businesses may post their buildings (not parking lots) against carry with signage. But private residences are off-limits unless the owner of the house provides consent. Colleges are generally off-limits unless the firearm is kept entirely within a private vehicle or a student receives permission to keep the gun in his dorm room and such possession does not violate school policy.

Anyone carrying a gun must immediately inform a police officer upon contact that he is armed. Unlike most states, Louisiana does not require the officer to first ask if you are armed. It is the citizen's duty to inform.

Louisiana's preemption law prevents localities from regulating most aspects of firearm possession, carry and transport. Recent enhancements to the law eliminate any "grandfathered" ordinances existing prior to 1985 and also allow for legal actions against cities that violate the law.

Vehicle carry on most public and private parking lots is protected activity. Property owners may not prohibit visitors from having firearms in their vehicles while parked on the owners' lots.

Maine

Total prohibition (+0, New England's back country rivals Alaska for good gun laws!) Total freedom

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- *Standard firearms & ammo: no permit required for possession or sale – see p. 2
- *Semi-auto guns & high capacity magazines: no permit required for possession or sale
- *Machine guns & suppressors: ownership lawful per federal law compliance
- *Firearm law uniformity: preemption law, firearm laws uniform throughout state
- *Open carry: lawful in most public areas; some exceptions – see below
- *Right of Self-Defense: no NRA-model castle doctrine, *duty to retreat* in public areas
- *Licensed concealed carry: licenses issued to residents and nonresidents
- *Constitutional or “no permit required” concealed carry: yes – see below
- *Out-of-state permit recognition: conditional recognition of permits from other states (see p.65)
- *Weapons allowed for *licensed carry*: limited to handguns only
- *Vehicle carry by non-permittees: anyone 21 years or older may carry a loaded handgun anywhere in a vehicle; long guns must remain unloaded and may be secured in commercial gun cases or stowed in the trunk
- *Vehicle gun possession at colleges: subject to college administrative policy
- *Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools: firearm possession prohibited
- *Duty to notify LEO of permit/carry status: upon demand for permittees only (see below)
- *RV carry while “boondocking”: parking lot owners may restrict gun carry by visitors – see p.9
- *State Parks: concealed handgun carry by recognized licensees permitted (except Baxter S.P.)
- *Restaurants serving alcohol: concealed carry O.K. if premises are not “posted” – see p.3
- *Houses of Worship: gun carry O.K. unless premises is posted – see p.3
- *Hotels: statutory allowance for guest rejection & “force of law” posting prohibitions – see p.7
- *Airports: carry allowed in non-sterile terminal areas and parking lots of most airports (Augusta state airport prohibits carry on its grounds through administrative rule) – see p. 9
- *Highway Rest Areas: carry allowed in buildings and on grounds – see p. 7

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Maine is well known for its "back country" reputation. The state will provide some beautiful scenery as well as a friendly atmosphere for gun owners. Maine's enactment of a law allowing concealed carry without a permit makes the Pine Tree State one of our nation's best.

Recognized permittees: Despite constitutional carry, Maine will still issue a license to carry a loaded handgun in a vehicle or concealed about one's person to anyone 18 years or older for a four year term. Residents apply to their local police chief while nonresidents apply directly to the State Police. Most find the licenses helpful in enhancing reciprocity options. Maine will recognize licenses from residents of states that also honor Maine's permits. Recognized permittees may carry concealed, loaded handguns throughout the state. But casinos, courthouses, restaurants serving alcohol that post against carry, K-12 schools, private property w/postings, wildlife sanctuaries, labor disputes and most of the state capitol are off-limits to all gun carry. And permittees who carry in Acadia National Park and most state parks must keep their handguns concealed. Baxter State Park prohibits anyone from carrying a firearm.

Persons without recognized permits: Any person who is 21 years or older may carry a loaded handgun anywhere in his vehicle. Glove compartments, console boxes, under one's seat, or on one's person are all legitimate. Any active duty military with official I.D. between the ages of 18-21 may also carry.

While on foot, anyone may openly carry a loaded handgun. And those 21 years and older (and military personnel) may carry concealed handguns (but no other weapons) without a permit. Maine requires these non-permittees to immediately inform a police officer upon official contact that they have a concealed handgun. Those with permits do not have this requirement.

In addition to the areas prohibited to licensees, those who carry without permits are also barred from carry in Acadia National Park and all state parks. These places (except Baxter – see above) require those carrying handguns to possess licenses. Non-permitted carry is not allowed.

All Persons: Maine forbids the carry of any *loaded* long gun in a vehicle. This means that *everyone*, even those with permits, must keep rifles & shotguns unloaded. Magazines may be loaded but may not be attached to, or inserted in, any of the guns.

Maryland

Total prohibition

(+3, court lifts carry bans in several “gun free” zones)

Total Freedom

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- ***Standard firearms & ammo:** no restrictions on possession; sales of all guns heavily restricted - p.2
- ***Semi-auto guns & high capacity magazines:** import of *assault weapons* prohibited; transfer or sale of over 10 shot magazines prohibited, possession & import not expressly regulated
- ***Machine guns & suppressors:** state registration required of machine guns; suppressor ownership lawful per federal law compliance; bump stocks prohibited
- ***Firearm law uniformity:** limited preemption law, local carry restrictions likely
- ***Right of Self-Defense:** no NRA-model castle doctrine, *duty to retreat* in public areas
- ***Open carry:** prohibited in all public areas
- ***Licensed concealed carry:** licenses issued to residents and nonresidents
- ***Constitutional or “no permit required” concealed carry:** no
- ***Out-of-state permit recognition:** no recognition of out-of-state carry permits
- ***Weapons allowed for licensed carry:** generally limited to handguns and knives
- ***Vehicle carry for non-permittees:** loaded, readily accessible handguns prohibited; exceptions exist for unloaded transport; rifles & shotguns must remain unloaded
- ***Vehicle gun possession at colleges:** locked in container O.K.; also subject to school policy
- ***Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools:** firearm possession prohibited at *public* schools
- ***Duty to notify LEO of permit status:** upon demand of police officer
- ***RV carry while “boondocking”:** parking lot owners may restrict gun carry by visitors – see p.9
- ***State Parks:** possession and carry of firearms prohibited except at designated ranges
- ***Restaurants serving alcohol:** carry prohibited per 2023 law (enforcement deferred by court order) – p.3
- ***Houses of Worship:** gun carry O.K. unless premises is posted – see p.3
- ***Hotels:** statutory allowance for guest rejection or ejection for gun possession – see p.7
- ***Airports:** carry prohibited in buildings and parking lots – see p. 9
- ***Highway Rest Areas:** display prohibited in buildings & on grounds, but concealed carry O.K. – see p. 7



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Maryland’s severe regulation of handguns, “assault weapons” & high-capacity magazines was recently surpassed with a near total ban on carry in most public areas. And although this law is being challenged in court, the practical effect of the new prohibitions will be devastating if fully implemented.

Maryland permittees: A license is required to carry a loaded handgun on one's person or in a vehicle. Permits are issued to residents & nonresidents for 2 years (3 years for renewals). Permittees may only carry *concealed* & must have their permits with them when carrying. Permits from other states are not recognized.

Permittees are prohibited from carrying on K-12 school property, legislative bldgs., some hotels, government-owned bldgs., child care & preschool centers, state parks & forests, transit & port facilities, airports, stadiums, polling places, museums, casinos, racetracks, health care facilities, colleges & amusement parks (car carry exceptions exist, but are not universal). In addition, public demonstrations, bars & restaurants serving alcohol, along with any private businesses not *expressly* allowing carry through posted notice are also prohibited. But the courts deferred enforcement in these places for now. (*subject to change*)

Persons without Maryland permits: A non-permittee may not carry a handgun on foot or in a vehicle in a loaded or readily accessible manner. But he may transport an unloaded handgun in a secure case if he is traveling to or from a sport shooting event, gun show, hunting, target practice, repair shop or place of purchase. Magazines may remain loaded while in a vehicle as long as they are separate from any handgun.

Travelers *passing through* the state may transport inaccessible handguns even if they are not traveling to one of these events. The guns must be unloaded, cased and, either stowed in the trunk, or locked in a case if the vehicle has no trunk. Ammunition should be in separate cases (see p.5).

All Persons: Rifles and shotguns may be transported in a vehicle for any reason. But the weapons must be unloaded and secured in commercial cases or gun racks regardless of whether one has a Maryland permit.

And, despite a limited preemption statute, localities may still enforce carry restrictions in most public areas. Montgomery County recently prohibited carry in virtually all public venues. So beware!

Massachusetts



Total prohibition (-5, registration required for new residents and most nonresidents)

Total freedom

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- ***Standard firearms & ammo:** restricted, Firearm Identification Card required to possess
- ***Semi-auto & high capacity magazines:** restricted, permit required to possess (the import of any assault weapon or over 10 shot magazine is prohibited)
- ***Machine guns & suppressors:** restricted, state permit required & federal compliance for machine guns; personal ownership of suppressors prohibited; bump stocks prohibited
- ***Firearm law uniformity:** firearm laws are uniformly strict throughout the state
- ***Right of Self-Defense:** no NRA-model castle doctrine, *duty to retreat* in public areas
- ***Open carry:** prohibited in all public areas unless one possesses a Massachusetts permit
- ***Licensed concealed carry:** licenses issued to residents and nonresidents
- ***Constitutional or “no permit required” concealed carry:** no
- ***Out-of-state permit recognition:** no recognition of out-of-state carry permits
- ***Weapons allowed for licensed carry:** include handguns and certain rifles and shotguns
- ***Vehicle carry by non-permittees:** handgun carry generally prohibited; standard, non-semi-auto rifles and shotguns must be unloaded and in *locked* containers
- ***Vehicle gun possession at colleges:** prohibited by law
- ***Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools:** firearm possession prohibited
- ***Duty to notify LEO of permit status:** upon demand of police officer
- ***RV carry while “boondocking”:** parking lot owners may restrict gun carry by visitors – see p.9
- ***State Parks:** concealed handgun carry by Massachusetts licensees permitted
- ***Restaurants serving alcohol:** permittees may carry while eating in dining areas – see p.3
- ***Houses of Worship:** gun carry O.K. unless premises is posted – see p.3
- ***Hotels:** subject to hotel policy enforcement & possible “force of law” posting prohibitions – see p.7
- ***Airports:** carry prohibited in terminal areas & parking lots of most airports (security zone enforcement)
- ***Highway Rest Areas:** Massachusetts permittee carry allowed in buildings and on grounds – see p. 7



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Unfortunately for gun owners, Massachusetts reflects Ted Kennedy’s politics when it comes to laws regulating firearms. Mere possession of rifles, shotguns, handguns and ammunition requires a firearm identification card. And any violation of a state gun law could carry a minimum sentence of one year in prison.

Massachusetts permittees: A permit is needed to carry a concealed handgun in your vehicle or on your person while on foot. Such licenses are issued to Massachusetts’ residents who are 21 or older for 6-year terms. The state will also issue temporary licenses to carry handguns to nonresidents. These permits cost \$100.00, are valid for one year, require in-state training & in-person application and may be obtained through the Firearms Records Bureau (617-660-4782). Permittees may possess handguns in most public areas except government offices, polling places, K-12 schools, colleges, airports, court facilities, casinos, nature preserves and any posted locations. Vehicle carry requires the handgun to be under the “exclusive” control of the permittee. And, while Massachusetts does not prohibit open carry by permittees, such activity is not recommended.

Persons without Massachusetts permits: Vehicle carry of a handgun without a Massachusetts license is prohibited. A recent law change appears to allow a nonresident “traveling through” the state to possess a handgun in his vehicle. But the enforcement parameters of this new exemption have yet to be implemented. So it is still recommended that you transport your handgun per McClure-Volkmer (see p. 5).

Nonresidents traveling into or through the state may transport non-semi-auto rifles, shotguns and ammo in a vehicle if the items are unloaded and in *locked* containers. Nonresident hunters may also possess the same if they have nonresident MA hunting licenses. But most long gun possession by nonresidents for reasons other than “traveling through” or hunting requires an “identification permit” similar to what Massachusetts issues. The state police are required to publish a list each year of the permits that Massachusetts will accept.

All Persons: All semi-automatic “assault weapons,” over 10 shot magazines, and “bump stocks” are permanently banned from entering the state. Exceptions exist for possession of “pre-1994” hi-cap magazines on private property by residents. But any import of these items by nonresidents is prohibited.

And finally, new residents, as well as nonresidents who are not just “passing through,” must register their guns before entering the state. No exceptions exist for competitive shooters.



Michigan

Total prohibition (+0, not bad for residents, but visitors w/o permits will find it tough)

Total freedom

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C H E C K L I S T

- ***Standard firearms & ammo:** firearm registration required at purchase; no ammo restrictions
- ***Semi-auto guns & high capacity mags:** folding stock rifles less than 26" require NFA registr.
- ***Machine guns & suppressors:** ownership lawful per federal law compliance
- ***Firearm law uniformity:** preemption law, firearm laws uniform throughout state
- ***Right of Self-Defense:** NRA model-castle doctrine, *stand your ground* in public areas
- ***Open carry:** lawful in most public areas, nonresidents must have home state permit
- ***Licensed concealed carry:** licenses issued by county clerks to residents only
- ***Constitutional or "no permit required" concealed carry:** no
- ***Out-of-state permit recognition:** automatic recognition for person w/ permit from home state
- ***Weapons allowed for licensed carry:** limited to handguns and stun guns
- ***Vehicle carry by non-permittees:** long guns must be transported unloaded and encased or secured in the trunk; a nonresident may not transport a handgun w/o a home state permit
- ***Vehicle gun possession at colleges:** subject to college administrative policy
- ***Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools:** Michigan permittee w/loaded handgun lawful
- ***Duty to notify LEO of permit status:** immediately upon official contact
- ***RV carry while "boondocking":** parking lot owners may restrict gun carry by visitors – see p.9
- ***State Parks:** concealed handgun carry by recognized licensees permitted
- ***Restaurants serving alcohol:** permittees may carry while eating in dining areas – see p.3
- ***Houses of Worship:** gun carry prohibited unless church leaders grant permission – see p.3
- ***Hotels:** subject to hotel policy enforcement – see p.7
- ***Airports:** carry allowed in non-sterile terminal areas and parking lots – see p. 9
- ***Highway Rest Areas:** carry allowed in buildings and on grounds – see p. 7



V E H I C L E S

Michigan's rustic northern regions draw many gun enthusiasts. Unfortunately, Michigan's gun laws for visitors are stricter than one might expect and should cause the unlicensed traveler concern.

Recognized permittees: A license is required to carry a handgun concealed on your person or within your vehicle. County clerks issue these licenses to Michigan residents only. The permits are valid for 5 years and exempt the holders from having to obtain purchase permits on subsequent pistol purchases. A permittee may not carry a *concealed*, loaded pistol in K-12 schools, sports arenas, large entertainment facilities, churches (unless allowed by church officials), hospitals, bars, casinos, daycare centers and universities. Parking lots of these areas (except casinos) are O.K. for car carry. And open carry by permittees (except casinos) is lawful as well. But colleges may ban car carry in their parking lots through policy enforcement. And K-12 schools *may* attempt bans on open carry by permittees through policy enforcement as well.

Michigan recognizes any out-of-state permittee with a license from his home state. A permittee must be the actual owner of the pistol he carries and immediately disclose to police that he has a carry license when stopped. Licensees may carry their handguns openly or concealed.

Persons without recognized permits: Michigan residents without carry permits may transport handguns for a "lawful purpose" that are securely cased, unloaded and either stored in the trunk or placed in an area that is not readily accessible. "Lawful purpose" includes transport to locations where the pistol may be employed for most recreational endeavors. The pistol's owner must have also registered the pistol with the Michigan State police when he acquired the pistol. This requirement makes it impossible for a nonresident to transport a pistol in Michigan unless he has a carry permit from his home state.

Michigan allows the open carry of a loaded pistol while on foot in most public areas except K-12 schools, banks, churches, courts, theaters, sports arenas, day care centers, hospitals and alcohol-related businesses. Permittees, however, may carry their pistols openly in these areas absent an intervening policy (ie. open carry in courts may be banned by judicial order). A carrier should keep his pistol in a visible holster and not enter a vehicle unless he has a permit. Open carry without a permit is limited to Michigan residents.

All Persons: Long guns in a vehicle must be unloaded and at least one of the following: (1) broken down, (2) enclosed in a case, (3) placed in the trunk or, (4) inaccessible from the vehicle's interior. And, along with areas prohibited by statute, private property owners may ban carry on all property, including parking lots.

Minnesota



Total prohibition (-3, state enacts law expanding definition of "trigger activators")

Total freedom

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- ***Standard firearms & ammo:** no restrictions on possession (handgun sales require permit) see p.2
- ***Semi-auto guns & high capacity mags:** possession O.K.; assault weapon sales require permit
- ***Machine guns & suppressors:** restrictive, only machine-guns which are curio & relics lawful; suppressor ownership lawful; bump stocks prohibited
- ***Firearm law uniformity:** state preemption law, firearm laws uniform throughout state
- ***Right of Self-Defense:** no NRA-model castle doctrine, *duty to retreat* in public areas
- ***Open carry:** prohibited in all public areas unless one possesses a recognized permit
- ***Licensed concealed carry:** licenses issued to residents and non-residents
- ***Constitutional or "no permit required" concealed carry:** no
- ***Out-of-state permit recognition:** conditional recognition of permits from other states (see p. 65)
- ***Weapons allowed for licensed carry:** limited to handguns only
- ***Vehicle carry by non-permittees:** all firearms must be securely cased and unloaded
- ***Vehicle gun possession at colleges:** lawful for any gun owner (permittee or nonpermittee)
- ***Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools:** Minnesota permittee w/loaded handgun lawful; permittee may also exit vehicle to retrieve gun from trunk or rear storage area
- ***Duty to notify LEO of permit status:** upon demand of police officer
- ***RV carry while "boondocking":** most parking lot owners may *not* prohibit guns in vehicles – p.9
- ***State Parks:** concealed handgun carry by recognized licensees permitted
- ***Restaurants serving alcohol:** permittees may carry while eating in dining areas – see p.3
- ***Houses of Worship:** churches may prohibit carry on all property w/o notice per court ruling – see p.3
- ***Hotels:** statutory allowance for guest rejection or ejection for gun possession – see p. 7
- ***Airports:** carry allowed in non-sterile terminal areas and parking lots – see p. 9
- ***Highway Rest Areas:** carry allowed in buildings and on grounds – see p. 7



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Minnesota's numerous restrictions on the purchase and sale of handguns and "assault weapons" should not concern the casual traveler. But persons visiting America's north central region must be aware of certain legal nuances to ensure an uneventful trip.

Recognized permittees: Minnesota requires a license to carry a loaded handgun on one's person or in a vehicle. Permits are granted to residents and nonresidents who are at least 21 years old. Application is made to the sheriff of the resident's home county. Non-residents may apply to any sheriff in the state. Permits are valid for five years and allow concealed or open carry. Out-of-state permits from states with similar laws are recognized at the discretion of the Dept. of Public Safety. Aside from some universally restricted areas (p.6) such as K-12 schools, childcare facilities and courthouses (prohibited through judicial order), most public venues are open to carry by permittees. But private establishments that post signs and public institutions, such as universities, which enforce policies against carry, are off-limits. Such places can only prohibit carry within buildings and, with the exception of churches, may not ban carry in parking facilities. Churches may prohibit carry on all property without notice per court ruling. And while carry in state parks and most forest areas is O.K., loaded firearms are prohibited in wildlife refuges.

Persons without recognized permits: Handguns in a vehicle must be unloaded and fully contained in closed commercial gun cases. The weapons may be transported in either the passenger compartment or trunk but must always remain unloaded and cased.

While on foot, handguns may be transported between one's premises and place of business without a permit. Persons engaged in lawful hunting and target shooting may also carry handguns without permits while engaged in these pursuits. Aside from these few exceptions, loaded handgun carry is limited to permittees only.

All Persons: Rifles and shotguns in a vehicle must be unloaded and secured in commercial gun cases unless stowed in the trunk. Long guns in a vehicle's trunk must be unloaded but need not be cased. This restriction applies to permittees and non-permittees alike because Minnesota's licensing law only allows for *handgun* carry with a permit. Open carry of long guns while on foot is limited to lawful hunting or target shooting pursuits. Any other possession in public requires that the weapons be unloaded and cased.



Mississippi

Total prohibition (+0, *permitless carry & a vibrant gun culture make it one of our best*) Total freedom

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- *Standard firearms & ammo: no permit required for possession or sale – see p.2
- *Semi-auto guns & high capacity magazines: no permit required for possession or sale
- *Machine guns & suppressors: ownership lawful per federal law compliance
- *Firearm law uniformity: preemption law, but cities may restrict parks & public meetings
- *Right of Self-Defense: NRA-model castle doctrine, *stand your ground* in public areas
- *Open carry: lawful in most public areas (some local restrictions possible)
- *Licensed concealed carry: licenses issued by DPS to residents only
- *Constitutional or “no permit required” concealed carry: yes – see below
- *Out-of-state permit recognition: automatic recognition of carry permits from all other states
- *Weapons allow for *licensed* carry: limited to handguns and stun guns
- *Vehicle carry by non-permittees: loaded, concealed handguns may be carried anywhere in a vehicle; long guns should be unloaded during hunting season
- *Vehicle gun possession at colleges: lawful for any non-student gun owner
- *Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools: Mississippi non-student permittee w/pistol lawful
- *Duty to notify LEO of permit/carry status: upon demand of police officer
- *RV carry while “boondocking”: parking lot owners may *not* prohibit guns in vehicles – see p.9
- *State Parks: concealed handgun carry by licensees & those exercising constitutional carry allowed
- *Restaurants serving alcohol: carry allowed while eating in dining areas – see p.3
- *Houses of Worship: carry prohibited unless permittee is security officer or has enhanced status – see p.3
- *Hotels: subject to hotel policy enforcement & “force of law” posting prohibitions – see p.7
- *Airports: carry prohibited in terminals except for MS “enhanced” permittees; parking lots O.K. for all
- *Highway Rest Areas: carry allowed in buildings and on grounds unless posted – see p.7

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Mississippi’s laws showcase a strong tradition of gun ownership. Constitutional carry and an “enhanced” permit option exemplify the state’s commitment to excellence.

Recognized permittees: Licenses to carry concealed handguns are still issued to residents for 5-year terms. These permits may be upgraded to “enhanced” status through additional training that allows permittees to carry in all the prohibited areas listed in the next paragraph except jails, police stations, places of nuisance and some “posted” property. Licenses are not issued to nonresidents but all out-of-state permits are recognized as “regular” permits. Permittees may carry openly or concealed.

Carry for “regular” permittees is prohibited at most athletic events, airport terminals, police stations or jails, meetings of government bodies, courthouses, colleges, bars, churches, parades, polling places, places of nuisance and any other property whose owner or controlling entity posts a sign against carry.

Persons without recognized permits: A license is not required to carry a loaded, concealed handgun anywhere in a vehicle or in a fully enclosed container or holster while on foot. “Enclosed container” would include any closed purse, handbag, satchel or briefcase. “Holster” would include any belt or shoulder holster worn upon the person. The handgun must remain secured in the holster and may not be worn in any other way (ie. tucked into a belt or waistband). Those exercising this “permitless” carry option are still prohibited from carrying in areas off-limits to regular permittees.

Handguns may continue to be carried openly while on foot. If not contained in belt or shoulder holsters, they should remain visible so as not to be “hidden from common observation.” Concealment in any manner is lawful if one is involved in target shooting, hunting, or fishing.

All Persons: Standard length long guns may be carried in most public areas and just about anywhere in a vehicle with one important qualification. Hunting laws require long guns in vehicles, or possessed on foot while one is on a public road, to be unloaded during deer & turkey season. The guns may be loaded during other times of the year. This prohibition applies to both permittees and non-permittees.

Businesses may only prohibit firearms inside their buildings. Guns kept in locked vehicles on their parking lots are lawful. And localities may only restrict carry in certain areas such as public parks and meetings. The preemption law sets legal sanctions against cities that attempt overbroad regulation.

Missouri



Total prohibition (+0, the “Show Me” state is the “show room” for good gun laws)

Total freedom

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CHECKLIST

- *Standard firearms & ammo: no permit required for possession or sale – see p. 2
- *Semi-auto guns & high capacity magazines: no permit required for possession or sale
- *Machine guns & suppressors: ownership lawful per federal law compliance
- *Firearm law uniformity: preemption law, gun laws uniform except localities may regulate the open carry of loaded weapons by non-permittees in public areas
- *Right of Self-Defense: NRA-model castle doctrine, *stand your ground* in public areas
- *Open carry: lawful in most public areas, but some local regulation of loaded carry possible – see below
- *Licensed concealed carry: licenses issued to residents only
- *Constitutional or “no permit required” concealed carry: yes – see below
- *Out-of-state permit recognition: automatic recognition of carry permits from all other states
- *Weapons allowed for *licensed* carry: include any lawful deadly weapon
- *Vehicle carry by non-permittees: loaded firearms may be carried anywhere in a vehicle
- *Vehicle gun possession at colleges: lawful for permittees, but subject to college policy
- *Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools: Missouri permittee w/loaded handgun lawful
- *Duty to notify LEO of permit/carry status: upon demand of police officer
- *RV carry while “boondocking”: parking lot owners may *not* prohibit guns in vehicles – see p.9
- *State Parks: concealed handgun carry by permittees & those exercising permitless carry allowed
- *Restaurants serving alcohol: carry allowed while eating in dining areas – see p.3
- *Houses of Worship: gun carry prohibited unless church leaders grant permission – see p.3
- *Hotels: statutory allowance for guest rejection or ejection for gun possession – see p.7
- *Airports: carry allowed in non-sterile terminal areas and parking lots – see p. 9
- *Highway Rest Areas: carry allowed in buildings and on grounds – see p. 7

VEHICLES

Missouri developed a well-earned reputation during the Civil War as a place where personal gun ownership was a necessity for survival. With roving bands of guerillas from both sides exacting a heavy toll on the population, farmers in the hinterland needed plenty of firepower just to stay alive. Missourians continue this tradition today by their recognition of “constitutional carry.”

Recognized permittees: Despite allowing concealed carry without a permit (see below), licenses are still issued by local sheriffs to qualified residents who are at least 19 years old, or 18 if a military member. These permits are valid for five years and allow the carry of any firearm. Extended term and lifetime licenses are also offered. But these permits are only valid in Missouri and, unlike the 5 year permits, do not qualify for recognition outside Missouri.

Missouri does not issue permits to non-residents but will recognize all other states’ carry permits. Recognized permittees may carry openly or concealed in most public areas. But carry is prohibited in law enforcement offices, polling places, large sports arenas, K-12 schools, courthouses, childcare facilities, amusement parks, churches (absent consent of church leadership), government meetings & posted facilities, colleges, hospitals, casinos, bars, and posted private establishments. These restrictions only apply to buildings. Weapons secured in vehicles in parking lots are lawful. And any violation of the above-listed restrictions is not a criminal offense for the permittee who is a first time violator.

Persons without recognized permits: Any U.S. citizen or permanent resident who is 19 or older may carry a loaded firearm anywhere in a vehicle. The glove compartment, console box or under the seat are all legitimate placement areas. Concealed carry on foot is also allowed as long as such carry does not occur in one of the prohibited areas listed in the preceding paragraph. But unlike permittees, carry by non-permittees in these areas can result in criminal penalties ranging from misdemeanors to, in the case of K-12 schools, felony charges. Only a carry violation on posted private property would be a non-criminal offense.

Open carry on foot is allowed in most public areas with one notable exception. Cities may prohibit the open carry of loaded firearms by anyone without a license. Local ordinances exist which prohibit any non-permittee from having an openly displayed, loaded gun in public.

All Persons: Missouri’s preemption law prevents most local gun regulation (despite St. Louis’ attempts to illegally ban guns in parks). But, be aware, that state law prohibits gun possession by anyone on a bus.



Montana

Total prohibition

(+0, "Big Sky" Country is gun country!)

Total freedom

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- *Standard firearms & ammo: no permit required for possession or sale – see p.2
- *Semi-auto guns & high capacity magazines: no permit required for possession or sale
- *Machine guns or suppressors: ownership lawful per federal law compliance
- *Firearm law uniformity: preemption law, some local regulation of public buildings possible
- *Right of Self-Defense: NRA-model castle doctrine, *stand your ground* in public areas
- *Open carry: lawful in most public areas and generally accepted
- *Licensed concealed carry: licenses issued to residents only
- *Constitutional or “no permit required” concealed carry: yes– see below
- *Out-of-state permit recognition: conditional recognition of permits from other states (see p. 65)
- *Weapons allowed for licensed carry: include handguns, knives and any lawful deadly weapon
- *Vehicle carry by non-permittees: loaded firearms may be carried anywhere in a vehicle
- *Vehicle gun possession at colleges: subject to college policy - see “all persons”
- *Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools: Montana permittee w/loaded handgun lawful
- *Duty to notify LEO of permit/carry status: upon demand of police officer
- *RV carry while “boondocking”: parking lot owners may restrict gun carry by visitors – see p.9
- *State Parks: concealed handgun carry by licensees & those exercising permitless carry allowed
- *Restaurants serving alcohol: open or concealed carry allowed while eating in dining areas – see p.3
- *Houses of Worship: gun carry O.K. unless premises is posted – see p.3
- *Hotels: prohibited from barring gun possession by guests – see p.7
- *Airports: localities may prohibit open carry by anyone and concealed carry by non-permittees in all buildings; car carry in parking lots O.K. – see p.9
- *Highway Rest Areas: carry allowed in buildings and on grounds – see p. 7

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Montana's vast expanse offers the traveler some breathtaking views as well as ample incentive to carry a firearm for personal protection. The state's connections to the “Old West” are reflected in the new permitless carry law. Now, those without permits can exercise their right to carry in cities as well as the countryside.

Recognized permittees: Even though Montana no longer requires a permit to carry concealed, licenses are still available through one's local sheriff. “Temporary restricted” permits are issued to residents 18-20 years old and may be upgraded at 21 to “enhanced” status. Permits are valid for 5 years. Montana does not grant licenses to nonresidents but will recognize the permits of other states that require criminal background checks of applicants prior to permit issuance. And the nonresident permittee must also possess photo identification along with his actual permit if the permit itself has no photo. Permittees may carry concealed in most public areas. But detention & law enforcement facilities, federal buildings, military reservations, secure areas of airports, courtrooms, K-12 school buildings and any posted private properties are still off-limits.

Persons without recognized permits: Montana allows anyone eligible to possess a firearm to carry it concealed without a permit. Such carry is allowed in most public areas except state & local government offices and publicly owned buildings where localities have chosen to prohibit unlicensed concealed carry. Carry is also prohibited in the places off-limits to those with recognized permits (see previous paragraph).

Loaded firearms may be carried anywhere in a vehicle. Placements in the glove compartment, under the seat or in the trunk are all legitimate transport areas.

All Persons: Open carry is generally accepted and supported by statute. But localities may prohibit anyone (permittee or non-permittee) from carrying openly in a publicly owned or occupied building. Other areas, however, including parks and public assemblies, are off-limits to local control.

And while hotels may not prohibit guests from possessing guns in hotel rooms, carry on college campuses is more problematic. The permitless carry law initially allowed permittees and non-permittees with requisite safety training (equivalent to that required for permit application) to carry on college campuses subject to manner and place restrictions set by the Board of Regents. This “campus carry” aspect was challenged in court and found to be unconstitutional. So colleges may still set policies that regulate gun carry on campus.

And Montana allows anyone deprived by a locality of his carry rights to sue in court and recover damages. Local officials will face substantial liability for enforcing carry restrictions that violate preemption.

Nebraska



Total prohibition (+0, permitless carry & better preemption – Cornhuskers score!)

Total freedom

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CHECKLIST

- *Standard firearms & ammo: no restrictions on possession (handgun sales require permit) see p.2
- *Semi-auto guns & high capacity magazines: no permit required for possession or sale
- *Machine guns & suppressors: ownership lawful per federal law compliance
- *Firearm law uniformity: preemption law, local regulation of gun carry & possession prohibited
- *Right of Self-Defense: no NRA-model castle doctrine, *duty to retreat* in public areas
- *Open carry: lawful in most public areas; local regulation preempted, but some illegal postings possible
- *Licensed concealed carry: licenses issued to residents only
- *Constitutional or “no permit required” concealed carry: yes
- *Out-of-state permit recognition: conditional recognition of permits from other states (see p.65)
- *Weapons allowed for licensed carry: limited to handguns only
- *Vehicle carry by non-permittees: loaded handguns may be kept anywhere in a vehicle; shotguns must be unloaded; rifles may be loaded & in plain view or unloaded & cased
- *Vehicle gun possession at colleges: lawful for any person, but subject to college policy
- *Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools: Nebraska permittee w/loaded handgun lawful
- *Duty to notify LEO of permit/carry status: immediately upon official contact (EMS also)
- *RV carry while “boondocking”: parking lot owners may *not* prohibit persons w/guns – p.9
- *State Parks: concealed handgun carry by licensees & those exercising constitutional carry allowed
- *Restaurants serving alcohol: persons may carry while eating in dining areas – see p.3
- *Houses of Worship: gun carry prohibited unless carrier is authorized security – see p.3
- *Hotels: subject to hotel policy enforcement & “force of law” posting prohibitions – see p.7
- *Airports: carry allowed in non-sterile terminal areas and parking lots – see p.9
- *Highway Rest Areas: carry allowed in buildings and on grounds unless posted – see p. 7

VEHICLES

Nebraska is in the heart of America's breadbasket. Small town values and respect for tradition are key identifiers of the state's character. So Nebraska's recent enactment of “permitless” carry is not surprising. Now visitors need not have permission slips to exercise their rights “where the West begins.”

Recognized permittees: Licenses to carry concealed handguns are still issued by the State Patrol to qualified residents who are at least 21 years old. They are valid for 5 years, cost \$100.00 and allow handgun carry only. Nebraska recognizes out-of-state licenses from states that have equal or greater issuance standards. Recognized permittees may not be residents of Nebraska and must be at least 21 years old. When approached by police or EMS, a permittee must declare that he is carrying a concealed handgun. Places off-limits to carry include banks & financial institutions, bars, churches or places of worship, K-12 schools, athletic events, colleges, hospitals, political rallies, polling places, government meetings, courthouses, police stations & jails and any posted property or business. Parking lot possession is lawful if the gun stays locked in the glove compartment or trunk of a car or the hard-sided storage compartment of a motorcycle. Churches and banks may allow security personnel to carry concealed handguns while on duty.

Persons without recognized permits: Any person not prohibited from possessing a firearm (not a convicted felon, etc.) and over the age of 21 (18-20 O.K. for service members) may carry a concealed loaded handgun in most public areas. Prohibited areas are the same as those listed for permittees. And any properties not specifically listed that choose to prohibit carry must post visible signs or their bans are not enforceable.

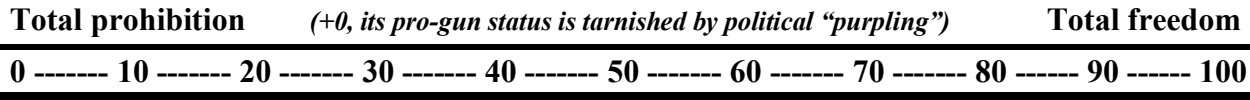
Nebraska recently expanded its preemption law to prohibit any local regulation of firearm carry, transport or possession. So local laws that formerly regulated non-permittee carry in vehicles and public areas are now void. And open carry, while always legal at the state level, is no long subject to restriction at the local level. But, despite this preemption, some cities such as Lincoln are attempting regulation through executive order.

All Persons: Loaded rifles in a vehicle should be in plain view or, if hidden from view, cased, unloaded and separate from any ammunition. Shotguns in a vehicle must be unloaded and may be in plain view or enclosed in gun cases. Both Nebraska's licensing & permitless carry laws only apply to concealed handgun carry. Permittees and non-permittees must observe the same rules for long gun transport.

And Nebraska only requires immediate notification to law enforcement of a handgun's presence in a vehicle if the gun is loaded, concealed and readily accessible. Unloaded, cased handguns need not be declared.



Nevada



CHECKLIST

- *Standard firearms & ammo: no permit required for possession or sale - see p. 2
- *Semi-auto guns & high capacity magazines: no permit required for possession or sale
- *Machine guns & suppressors: ownership lawful per federal law compliance; bump stocks prohibited
- *Firearm law uniformity: preemption law; all local ordinances, including those in Clark County, are eliminated; localities may be sued for violations
- *Right of Self-Defense: NRA castle doctrine, *stand your ground* in public areas
- *Open carry: lawful in most public areas and commonly accepted
- *Licensed concealed carry: licenses issued to residents and nonresidents
- *Constitutional or “no permit required” concealed carry: no
- *Out-of-state permit recognition: conditional recognition of permits from other states (see p. 65)
- *Weapons allowed for licensed carry: limited to handguns only
- *Vehicle carry by non-permittees: rifles and shotguns carried in a vehicle must be "unloaded;" loaded handguns may be carried openly or in the glove compartment or console box but may not be concealed upon one's person
- *Vehicle gun possession at colleges: prohibited absent written permission from college
- *Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools: prohibited absent written permission from school
- *Duty to notify LEO of permit status: upon demand of police officer
- *RV carry while “boondocking”: parking lot owners may restrict gun carry by visitors – see p.9
- *State Parks: concealed handgun carry by recognized licensees permitted
- *Restaurants serving alcohol: permittees may carry while eating in dining areas – see p.3
- *Houses of Worship: gun carry O.K. unless premises is posted – see p.3
- *Hotels: subject to hotel policy enforcement – see p.7
- *Airports: carry in passenger terminals prohibited; car carry in parking lots O.K. – see p.9
- *Highway Rest Areas: *concealed* handgun carry allowed in buildings and on grounds – see p. 7



VEHICLES

Nevada’s open country formerly provided a political atmosphere that was patently gun-friendly. But with the recent passage of “bump stock” bans and child storage laws, demographic shifts may be signaling an ominous move in the wrong direction for gun owners in the Silver State.

Recognized permittees: Licenses to carry concealed handguns are issued to residents and nonresidents who are at least 21 years old or, if members of the armed forces, 18-20 years old. A resident must apply to his local sheriff while a nonresident may apply to any county sheriff. Licenses are valid for five years and apply to handguns only. Permits of nonresidents from states with similar laws are also recognized. Permittees may carry anywhere in the state except K-12 schools, child care facilities, universities, “secure” facilities, public airports and posted public buildings with security screenings or signage prohibiting firearms.

Persons without recognized permits: A traveler may possess a loaded handgun in a vehicle if the weapon is in plain view or secured in the glove compartment or console box. A handgun may not be concealed "upon one's person." A weapon hidden under one's clothing or in a container carried by the person would be illegal. But a loaded handgun secured in a gun case on an empty passenger seat would be O.K.

On foot, a non-permittee may carry a handgun as long as the weapon is visible (ie. snapped belt holster). This carry mode is common in rural areas but unlikely to be seen in Las Vegas.

All Persons: Vehicle carry of rifles and shotguns is allowed as long as the firearms are unloaded and not concealed on one’s person. "Unloaded" is defined as a firearm that has no live cartridge in the firing chamber. Magazines for long guns may remain loaded. This restriction applies to both permittees and non-permittees.

Nevada's preemption law prohibits localities from enacting or enforcing laws regulating transportation, carrying, ownership, sale, and possession of firearms. Recently, the state strengthened its preemption statute to eliminate all local ordinances regulating guns except those prohibiting discharge within local limits. Even resident handgun registration in Clark County is null and void. Localities that attempt enforcement of any local carry law could face civil liability.

New Hampshire

Total prohibition (+3, employees may not be prohibited from storing guns in their cars)

Total freedom

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CHECKLIST

- ***Standard firearms & ammo:** no permit required for possession or sale – see p.2
- ***Semi-auto guns & high capacity magazines:** no permit required for possession or sale
- ***Machine guns & suppressors:** ownership lawful per federal law compliance
- ***Firearm law uniformity:** preemption law; firearm laws uniform throughout the state
- ***Right of Self-Defense:** NRA-model castle doctrine, *stand your ground* in public areas
- ***Open carry:** lawful in most public areas and generally accepted
- ***Licensed concealed carry:** licenses issued to residents and nonresidents
- ***Constitutional or “no permit required” concealed carry:** yes – see below
- ***Out-of-state permit recognition:** conditional recognition of permits from other states (see p. 65)
- ***Weapons allowed for licensed carry:** limited to handguns only
- ***Vehicle carry by non-permittees:** handguns may be loaded and carried concealed or openly anywhere in a motor vehicle; rifles and shotguns must remain unloaded
- ***Vehicle gun possession at colleges:** subject to college administrative policy
- ***Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools:** New Hampshire permittee w/loaded handgun O.K.
- ***Duty to notify LEO of permit/carry status:** upon demand of police officer
- ***RV carry while “boondocking”:** parking lot owners may restrict gun carry by visitors – see p.9
- ***State Parks:** concealed handgun carry by licensees and those exercising constitutional carry allowed
- ***Restaurants serving alcohol:** carry allowed while eating in dining areas – see p.3
- ***Houses of Worship:** gun carry O.K. unless premises is posted – see p.3
- ***Hotels:** subject to hotel policy enforcement – see p.7
- ***Airports:** carry allowed in non-sterile terminal areas and parking lots – see p.9
- ***Highway Rest Areas:** carry allowed in buildings and on grounds – see p. 7

VEHICLES

New Hampshire’s motto, “Live Free or Die,” was vividly illustrated when the state legislature enacted “constitutional” concealed carry in 2017. The state’s geographical location in the restrictive northeast does not prevent the “Granite State” from being one of America’s best.

Recognized permittees: Despite no longer being required, New Hampshire still issues licenses to carry loaded handguns in a vehicle or concealed upon one's person through the police chief or sheriff of a resident’s hometown for 5-year terms. Permits are also issued to nonresidents through the state police. Nonresident permits cost \$100.00 and no longer require the applicant to have a carry permit from his home state. Such licenses provide a distinct advantage when traveling to states that still require a license to carry a handgun; thus providing ample incentive for application and issuance. The New Hampshire State police continue to execute reciprocity arrangements with qualifying states.

Persons without recognized permits: Anyone who is not otherwise prohibited from possessing a firearm (felon, minor, etc.) may carry a loaded handgun in a vehicle. The weapon may be displayed openly or kept concealed on the person. Stowage in a gun case, glove compartment or console box is also acceptable. And permitless carriers should note that loaded handgun carry in a snowmobile or ATV is now lawful.

Carry of a loaded handgun (openly or concealed) while on foot is similarly allowed in most public areas except those mentioned in the “all persons” section below. New Hampshire’s preemption law prevents localities from regulating this and most other aspects of gun ownership.

All Persons: Rifles and shotguns in a vehicle must be unloaded and should be kept in gun cases, gun racks, or trunks. Magazines for these weapons may remain loaded as long as they are not attached to any firearm. Current statutes still prohibit *loaded* long gun transport in vehicles for everyone. So even recognized licensees must keep their rifles and shotguns unloaded while traveling.

Carry is allowed in most public areas except courthouses, correctional facilities, child day care & residential care facilities and any posted property. Even K-12 school facilities are not prohibited if one possesses a New Hampshire permit and is not a student at the school. A recent A.G. opinion found that local schools lack the power to impose their own gun bans as well.

And most employers may not prevent employees from storing guns in their cars while parked on employer property. This protection is limited to employees and does not include other invitees, such as customers.



New Jersey

Total prohibition (+3, court rules that NJ must accept federal law for LEO carry)

Total freedom

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CHECKLIST

- ***Standard firearms & ammo:** restricted, carry permit needed for handgun possession unless exception applies; firearm purchaser identification card required for long guns; hollow point ammo prohibited; handgun ammo registered at purchase; new residents must register their guns
- ***Semi-auto guns & high capacity magazines:** restricted, all “assault weapons” and any over 10 shot magazines are banned from import; 50 caliber rifles prohibited
- ***Machine guns & suppressors:** personal ownership prohibited; bump stocks prohibited
- ***Firearm law uniformity:** no state preemption; local carry laws exist & are severe
- ***Right of Self-Defense:** no NRA-model castle doctrine, *duty to retreat* in public areas
- ***Open carry:** prohibited in all public areas
- ***Licensed concealed carry:** licenses issued to residents and nonresidents
- ***Constitutional or “no permit required” concealed carry:** no
- ***Out-of-state permit recognition:** no recognition of out-of-state carry permits
- ***Weapons allowed for licensed carry:** limited to handguns only
- ***Vehicle carry by non-permittees:** firearms may not be carried in a vehicle without a purchaser identification card or NJ carry permit (exception for interstate transport – see p.5)
- ***Vehicle gun possession at colleges:** prohibited by law
- ***Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools:** firearm possession prohibited
- ***Duty to notify LEO of permit status:** immediately upon official contact
- ***RV carry while “boondocking”:** parking lot owners may restrict gun carry by visitors – see p.9
- ***State Parks:** firearms carry prohibited
- ***Restaurants serving alcohol:** firearms carry prohibited - p.3
- ***Houses of Worship:** carry may be prohibited by local ordinance; otherwise O.K. unless posted – see p.3
- ***Hotels:** subject to hotel policy enforcement – see p.7
- ***Airports:** carry prohibited in buildings and on grounds
- ***Highway Rest Areas:** New Jersey permittee carry allowed if not posted – see p. 7



V E H I C L E S

Travelers to New Jersey should be prepared for highly restrictive firearm laws. The state’s urban demographics and left-wing political bent have made it a hell house for gun owners.

New Jersey permittees: New Jersey requires a license to carry a loaded handgun on your person or in a vehicle. Residents may apply to their local police chiefs. Non-residents must apply directly to the State Police. Licenses are valid for 2 years and only allow *concealed* carry. Out-of-state permits are not recognized.

In addition to onerous application requirements, carry in public is severely restricted. Prohibited places include most gov’t bldgs., courthouses, jails, polling places, licensed public gatherings, K-12 schools, colleges, child care facilities, zoos, museums, parks, beaches, recreation & entertainment facilities, youth sport events, libraries, bars & restaurants serving alcohol, casinos, airports & transportation hubs and health care facilities. Car carry in these areas, as well as when a vehicle is unoccupied in any area, is O.K. if the gun is hidden from view and secured in a locked case. New Jersey also mandates that private properties must consent (by posting) to gun carry or such carry is prohibited. But this restriction’s enforcement, and a requirement that handguns in vehicles must always be unloaded & cased, was suspended by a court (this could change – so beware!).

Persons without New Jersey permits: Handgun possession outside of one’s home or business generally requires a New Jersey carry permit. Rifle and shotgun possession requires a firearm purchaser identification card issued by a person’s local police chief or by the state police if the applicant is an out-of-state resident. An ID card or permit is also required for vehicle transport of these firearms. Strict exceptions allow the transport of unloaded & cased firearms without a card or permit if a person is traveling directly to a hunting engagement, firearms exhibition, repair facility or target range. But general transport within the state is prohibited. Travelers w/o ID cards should only transport firearms per McClure-Volkmer (see p.5).

All Persons: Personal ownership of military-pattern semi-automatic weapons, bump stocks, over 10 shot magazines, machine guns, .50 caliber rifles and most hollow point handgun ammo is prohibited. An exception allows residents to keep hollow point ammunition in their homes and to permanently block any magazines over 10 shots. But importation of such items by nonresident travelers is prohibited.

New Mexico

Total prohibition (-5, carry w/o a permit within 100 ft. of a polling place prohibited)

Total freedom

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C H E C K L I S T

- *Standard firearms & ammo: no permit required for possession or sale – see p.2
- *Semi-auto guns & high capacity magazines: no permit required for possession or sale
- *Machine guns & suppressors: ownership lawful per federal law compliance
- *Firearm law uniformity: preemption law, but some local rules possible in Albuquerque
- *Right of Self-Defense: no NRA castle doctrine, *stand your ground* in public not codified
- *Open carry: lawful in most public areas and generally accepted
- *Licensed concealed carry: licenses issued to residents only
- *Constitutional or “no permit required” concealed carry: no
- *Out-of-state permit recognition: conditional recognition of permits from other states (see p. 65)
- *Weapons allowed for *licensed* carry: limited to only one handgun at a time
- *Vehicle carry by non-permittees: loaded, concealed firearms may be carried anywhere in a private automobile for self-protection
- *Vehicle gun possession at colleges: lawful for anyone over 19, subject to college policy
- *Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools: New Mexico permittee w/loaded handgun lawful
- *Duty to notify LEO of permit status: upon demand of police officer
- *RV carry while “boondocking”: parking lot owners may restrict gun carry by visitors – see p.9
- *State Parks: concealed handgun carry by recognized licensees permitted
- *Restaurants serving alcohol: permittees allowed to carry with qualification (see below)
- *Houses of Worship: gun carry O.K. unless premises is posted – see p. 3
- *Hotels: subject to hotel policy enforcement & “force of law” posting prohibitions – see p.7
- *Airports: carry allowed in non-sterile terminal areas and parking lots – see p.9
- *Highway Rest Areas: carry allowed, but contradictory (and illegal) signage possible – see p. 7



V E H I C L E S

The "Land of Enchantment" is known for its rugged mountain terrain and vast prairie tracts. Gun ownership has always been an important part of life in this frontier state. As late as 1916, citizens in the border town of Columbus used their privately owned arms to help Army units repel an attack by Mexican bandit Pancho Villa. And while more than a century old, Villa's raid shows the vital role guns play in defending a still volatile border.

Recognized permittees: New Mexico requires a license to carry a loaded, concealed handgun while on foot. Licenses are issued for four-year terms to those residents who are 21 years or older. New Mexico will not issue permits to nonresidents but will recognize permits from other states that have reciprocity agreements with New Mexico. A permittee is limited to carrying only one *concealed* handgun at a time. He must also be a U.S. citizen, at least 21 years old and *not* a New Mexico resident. Carry is prohibited in the places listed in the “All Persons” section below. But permittees may carry in restaurants that serve beer and wine (unless posted by owner) and retailers that sell alcohol for off-premises consumption (ie. liquor shops, grocery stores, etc.). These areas are off-limits to those without permits.

Persons without recognized permits: Vehicle carry of firearms is unrestricted. Loaded, concealed firearms may be carried in the passenger compartment or trunk. Under the seat, in the glove compartment or concealed in a purse are all legitimate placement areas.

A non-permittee on foot may carry an *unloaded* firearm anywhere on his person. The weapon may be concealed from view in a belt holster, gun case, etc. Loaded handguns may be openly carried on foot in most public places. Areas off-limits include those listed in “All Persons” as well as retailers that sell alcohol for either on-site (bars & restaurants) or off-site (grocery stores) consumption. Loaded or unloaded carry in these areas is punishable as a felony unless one has a recognized permit or fits into a statutory exception. And carry within 100 ft. of a polling place is also prohibited unless the non-permittee remains entirely within his vehicle.

All Persons: Open or concealed carry is prohibited to all persons on public buses, game preserves, college campuses, preschools, K-12 schools, courthouses, tribal lands (unless allowed by tribe), restaurants that serve hard liquor, the state capitol and any posted private property. Preemption prohibits most local ordinances that regulate guns. But Albuquerque is enforcing carry prohibitions in playgrounds, parks and government buildings. Look for postings until the courts invalidate these bans.

And, unlike most states, handgun possession is limited to those 19 and older. 18 year olds should take note.



New York

Total prohibition (+5, court strikes private property ban but allows other bans to continue) Total freedom

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C H E C K L I S T

- ***Standard firearms & ammo:** restricted, permit required for handgun possession; ammo sales restricted, but possession is not; all guns possessed in New York City require a city-issued permit
- ***Semi-auto guns & high capacity magazines:** restricted, “assault weapons” & mags. over 10 shots may not be imported; semi-auto rifles require acquisition license
- ***Machine guns & suppressors:** personal ownership prohibited; bump stocks prohibited
- ***Firearm law uniformity:** no preemption law; local regulation, especially in NYC
- ***Right of Self-Defense:** no NRA-model castle doctrine, *duty to retreat* in public areas
- ***Open carry:** prohibited in all public areas
- ***Licensed concealed carry:** licenses issued to residents & some nonresidents
- ***Constitutional or “no permit required” concealed carry:** no
- ***Out-of-state permit recognition:** no recognition of out-of-state carry permits
- ***Weapons allowed for licensed carry:** limited to handguns only
- ***Vehicle carry for non-permittees:** rifles & shotguns must be unloaded; handgun carry requires a New York license; all guns in unoccupied cars must be unloaded & cased (see below)
- ***Vehicle gun possession at colleges:** prohibited by law
- ***Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools:** firearm possession prohibited
- ***Duty to notify LEO of permit status:** upon demand of police officer
- ***RV carry while “boondocking”:** parking lot owners may restrict gun carry by visitors – see p.9
- ***State Parks:** firearm possession or use prohibited; limited exceptions for “special permit” hunting
- ***Restaurants serving alcohol:** carry prohibited in any business where alcohol is served – see p.3
- ***Houses of Worship:** carry prohibited to anyone but authorized security officers – see p.3
- ***Hotels:** hotel must post signs “allowing” carry (struck down by court – see below) – see p.7
- ***Airports:** carry prohibited in passenger terminals and parking areas – see p.9
- ***Highway Rest Areas:** carry prohibited in buildings and on grounds – see p. 7



V E H I C L E S

In 2022, the Supreme Court forced New York to stop requiring license applicants to show a “need” for self-defense. This victory was short-lived however. The state quickly enacted the most draconian carry law in the nation. Although currently being challenged in court, the law makes public carry almost impossible.

New York permittees: New York requires a license to possess or carry a handgun. Such permits are issued to residents who are at least 21 and complete required training. Nonresidents who are either principally employed in the state (ie. bank guards) or live in New York part-time may also qualify. Once issued, the licenses never expire but must be re-certified every 3 years and only allow *concealed* carry by the permittee.

Permittees are severely limited as to where they can carry. Most public venues (including govt. bldgs., medical facilities, schools, colleges, airports, subways, bus & train terminals, polling places, theaters, stadiums, casinos, churches, outdoor special events, Times Square, bars, most restaurants, zoos, libraries, playgrounds, parks, racetracks, museums, etc.) have been declared *sensitive locations* where carry is prohibited and punishable as a felony. Private businesses are off-limits unless the owners post signs that expressly allow carry. But this aspect was struck down by a federal court on 10/10/24 (this could change – so beware). And carry in NYC is prohibited unless one has a special permit issued by the City.

Persons w/o New York permits: New York will not honor out-of-state permits. So a traveler may only transport his handgun through the state if it is unloaded and secured in a locked case in the trunk or storage area (see p.5). The traveler's destination must also be a state where unlicensed possession is permitted. One should carry proof of hotel reservations in his destination state to prove the interstate nature of his trip.

All Persons: Standard rifles & shotguns may be transported in a vehicle as long as they are unloaded (ammunition is in separate boxes) and secured in gun cases. If the vehicle is left unattended, all firearms must be unloaded and *locked* in hard-sided gun cases or safes that are hidden from view. This restriction also applies to handguns carried by New York permittees. Possession of any firearm (handgun or long gun) within New York City requires a city-issued permit. So travelers without such authorization should avoid the “Big Apple.”

Machine guns, semi-automatic *assault weapons* and over 10 shot mags are prohibited from importation. And a “loaded” handgun may be one in which ammo for the weapon is in close proximity. So beware!

North Carolina



Total prohibition (+0, election maps make it purple, but for guns it's a solid red!)

Total freedom

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- ***Standard firearms & ammo:** no permit required for possession or sale
- ***Semi-auto guns & high capacity magazines:** no permit required for possession or sale
- ***Machine guns & suppressors:** permit from sheriff for machine guns, otherwise federal law applies
- ***Firearm law uniformity:** preemption law, but some carry restrictions at the local level possible
- ***Right of Self-Defense:** NRA-model castle doctrine, *stand your ground* in public areas
- ***Open carry:** lawful in most public areas, but certain specified locations may be off-limits
- ***Licensed concealed carry:** licenses issued to residents only
- ***Constitutional or "no permit required" concealed carry:** no
- ***Out-of-state permit recognition:** automatic recognition of carry permits from all other states
- ***Weapons allowed for licensed carry:** limited to handguns only
- ***Vehicle carry by non-permittees:** loaded firearms may be secured in holsters or slings and carried openly in the passenger compartment (concealed guns should be in trunk)
- ***Vehicle gun possession at colleges:** lawful for permittees, private schools may prohibit
- ***Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools:** North Carolina permittee w/loaded handgun lawful (but *private* schools may still prohibit all firearms possession)
- ***Duty to notify LEO of permit status:** immediately upon official contact
- ***RV carry while "boondocking":** parking lot owners may restrict gun carry by visitors – see p.9
- ***State Parks:** concealed handgun carry by recognized licensees permitted
- ***Restaurants serving alcohol:** permittees may carry if premises are not "posted" – see p.3
- ***Houses of Worship:** gun carry O.K. unless premises is posted – see p.3
- ***Hotels:** subject to hotel policy enforcement & "force of law" posting prohibitions – see p.7
- ***Airports:** localities may prohibit carry in terminal areas; car carry in parking lots O.K. – see p.9
- ***Highway Rest Areas:** carry allowed in buildings and on grounds – see p. 7

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The beautiful scenery of the Blue Ridge Mountains provide a vivid reminder that Andy Griffith's Mayberry is alive and well in the Tar Heel. And despite lacking some essentials to hassle-free travel like permitless carry, the state still impresses visitors with its mostly user-friendly gun laws.

Recognized permittees: North Carolina issues licenses to carry concealed, loaded handguns to residents 21 years or older for 5 year terms. North Carolina does not issue permits to nonresidents but will recognize permits from all other states. When approached by police, a permittee must declare that he has a handgun with a permit. Permittees may carry in most public areas except state government offices, the state capitol, courthouses, educational properties (including colleges), the state fair & posted areas. Handguns in closed compartments within locked vehicles parked on government & state educational premises, courthouses & the state fair are lawful. And carry while attending a church located on school property is O.K. if the property is not posted.

Persons without recognized permits: Vehicle carry of loaded handguns is limited to those weapons that are in plain view. A pistol placed in a hip holster or on the vehicle's dash or passenger seat is acceptable if the weapon remains visible from outside the vehicle. But courts have held that any concealment of a readily accessible handgun could constitute carrying a concealed weapon. And because concealment includes any gun "on or about the person," stowage in a glove compartment or console box is not advisable. Instead, handguns that are hidden from view should be in the trunk or rear-most portion of the vehicle and secured in gun cases.

Open carry of a loaded handgun while on foot is lawful in many public areas. But carry by non-permittees is still prohibited at funeral processions, parades, educational properties (including universities & colleges), places where alcohol is served, the state capitol and North Carolina courts.

All Persons: Loaded long guns may be kept in racks or slings if they remain visible. Or they may be cased in the trunk or rear-most cargo area as long as they are not concealed about one's person.

Both permittees and non-permittees are prohibited from carrying guns at public demonstrations and picket lines. And while localities may ban carry in parks, recreational centers and publicly owned buildings such as airports by posting signs, vehicle possession in these areas is O.K. for everyone.

No all-inclusive parking lot storage law exists in North Carolina. So some property owners may still prohibit guns in all areas, including vehicles parked on their lots.

North Dakota

Total prohibition (+0, permitless carry & red state politics make it good for all!)

Total freedom

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C H E C K L I S T

- *Standard firearms & ammo: no permit required for possession or sale – see p. 2
- *Semi-auto guns & high capacity magazines: no permit required for possession or sale
- *Machine guns & suppressors: ownership lawful per federal law compliance
- *Firearm law uniformity: preemption law, local regulation of some carry *not* preempted
- *Right of Self-Defense: NRA-model castle doctrine, *stand your ground* in public areas
- *Open carry: loaded carry prohibited for non-permittees – (some exceptions - see below)
- *Licensed concealed carry: licenses issued to residents and nonresidents
- *Constitutional or “no permit required” concealed carry: yes
- *Out-of-state permit recognition: conditional recognition of permits from other states (see p. 65)
- *Weapons allowed for licensed carry: include any lawful deadly weapon
- *Vehicle carry by non-permittees: loaded firearms may be carried anywhere in vehicle
- *Vehicle gun possession at colleges: lawful for anyone (permittees or non-permittees)
- *Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools: North Dakota permittee w/loaded handgun lawful under state law, but some localities may enforce their own prohibitive policies
- *Duty to notify LEO of permit/carry status: upon demand for permittees; those exercising constitutional carry must “immediately inform upon contact”
- *RV carry while “boondocking”: parking lot owners may *not* prohibit guns in vehicles – see p.9
- *State Parks: concealed handgun carry by licensees & those exercising constitutional carry allowed
- *Restaurants serving alcohol: persons may carry if area is open to those under 21 – see p.3
- *Houses of Worship: carry prohibited unless church leaders grant permission
- *Hotels: subject to hotel policy enforcement; statutory exception for loaded gun in room – see p.7
- *Airports: carry prohibited in most passenger terminals; car carry in parking lots O.K. – see p.9
- *Highway Rest Areas: carry allowed in buildings and on grounds – see p. 7

V E H I C L E S

North Dakota's frigid winters can make one of America's northern-most states appear pretty uninviting. But this harsh climate has forged a population of hardy souls that call upon firearms for daily use more often than most. Teddy Roosevelt even used his skill as a rifleman to apprehend frontier ruffians who stole a boat from his ranch. It's no wonder that the state enacted constitutional carry in 2019.

Recognized permittees: Licenses to carry loaded guns in a vehicle or concealed on one's person are still issued through the Bureau of Criminal Investigation to qualified persons 18 years & older for 5 year terms. They are divided into Class I and Class II permits and allow the open or concealed carry of any firearm. North Dakota grants permits to nonresidents and will recognize any permit issued by a state that also recognizes North Dakota. An out-of-state permittee must also reside in the state issuing the permit to be recognized in North Dakota.

Persons without recognized permits: Any person qualified for a Class 2 license (at least 18 yrs old, non-felon etc.) and possessing a driver's license or state ID from any state or territory may carry a concealed, loaded firearm without a permit while on foot or in a vehicle. He must keep the gun concealed and immediately inform a policeman upon official contact that he has a gun.

Any person not qualifying for permitless carry must keep firearms in a vehicle unloaded and secured in commercial gun cases or the trunk. To be unloaded, a firearm's chamber must be empty. Revolvers must also have all chambers in the cylinder empty. Magazines for any firearm may contain ammunition. While on foot, one may have a loaded handgun while engaged in hunting and target shooting. And loaded carry at a temporary residence (ie. campsite, hotel room) is also permissible.

Unlike most states, North Dakota limits open carry to recognized licensees. Non-permittees exercising their permitless carry option must keep their firearms *concealed*.

All Persons: Everyone, including recognized permittees, is forbidden from carrying firearms in bars, casinos, gaming sites and “public gatherings.” “Public gatherings” would include schools or school-sponsored events, churches (absent church policy allowing carry), and public buildings (excluding rest areas & restrooms). Firearms kept within vehicles are lawful at these locations, universities and most work sites.

And the state's preemption law prevents cities from regulating most aspects of possession and ownership. But exceptions exist which allow some local regulation of carry issues at “public gatherings.”

Ohio



Total prohibition (+0, Buckeyes score w/great laws – as goes Ohio – so goes the nation!)

Total freedom

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CHECKLIST

- ***Standard firearms & ammo:** no permit required for possession or sale – see p.2
- ***Semi-auto guns & high capacity magazines:** no permit required for possession or sale
- ***Machine guns & suppressors:** ownership lawful per federal law compliance
- ***Firearm law uniformity:** preemption law, firearm laws uniform throughout state
- ***Right of Self-Defense:** NRA-model castle doctrine, *stand your ground* in public areas
- ***Open carry:** lawful in most public areas and becoming more accepted
- ***Licensed concealed carry:** licenses issued to residents and some nonresidents
- ***Constitutional or “no permit required” concealed carry:** yes
- ***Out-of-state permit recognition:** automatic recognition of all nonresidents with carry permits
- ***Weapons allowed for licensed carry:** limited to handguns only
- ***Vehicle carry by non-permittees:** long guns must be unloaded and in plain view with actions open or enclosed in cases; any “qualifying adult” may carry a loaded handgun
- ***Vehicle gun possession at colleges:** lawful for permittees & “qualifying adults”
- ***Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools:** Ohio permittee w/loaded handgun lawful
- ***Duty to notify LEO of permit/carry status:** upon demand of police officer
- ***RV carry while “boondocking”:** parking lot owners may *not* prohibit persons w/guns – p.9
- ***State Parks:** carry prohibited in most buildings; carry O.K. in stand-alone restrooms & outdoor areas
- ***Restaurants serving alcohol:** persons may carry while eating in dining areas – see p.3
- ***Houses of Worship:** carry prohibited unless church leaders grant permission – see p.3
- ***Hotels:** subject to hotel policy enforcement & “force of law” posting prohibitions – see p.7
- ***Airports:** carry allowed in non-sterile terminal areas and parking lots unless posted – see p.9
- ***Highway Rest Areas:** carry allowed in buildings and on grounds – see p. 7

VEHICLES

Ohio’s right-to-carry reached a climax in 2022 when it enacted permitless carry. The Buckeye State’s penchant for following the right political trends is matched only by its commitment to good gun laws.

Recognized permittees / military persons: Despite permitless carry, Ohio still issues licenses to carry concealed, loaded handguns. The sheriff of a person’s home county or an adjacent county will issue a license to any qualified resident 21 or older for a five-year term. Ohio will also issue licenses to nonresidents who are employed in Ohio and will recognize the out-of-state permit of any nonresident. Residents with permits from states that have reciprocity agreements with Ohio are also recognized. And active duty military members with valid military IDs & proof of required training may carry as if they were permittees.

Persons without recognized permits: Any “qualifying adult” who is 21 or older, not prohibited from possessing a gun, otherwise qualified for a license and legally present in the U.S. may carry a loaded handgun concealed or openly in most public areas (see All Persons). A “qualifying adult” is afforded the same rights, & restrictions, as a permittee and will lose his carry rights if he fails to meet the legal requirements of a licensee.

All Persons: Permittees and “qualifying” military persons & adults may not carry in police stations or jails, colleges (unless authorized), K-12 schools, bars (unless person is *not* consuming alcohol), churches (unless church grants permission), mental health centers, courthouses, government buildings where official business is conducted and any posted private businesses. But state & local government buildings that are primarily used as restroom, rest area or parking facilities are O.K. for carry. And parking lots for most prohibited areas are lawful if the handgun stays in the car and is kept in a locked compartment when the car is unoccupied. The one exception would be K-12 schools. Federal law requires an in-state license to possess a loaded handgun in your vehicle while in a school zone. Those without Ohio-issued licenses would not qualify.

Rifles and shotguns in a vehicle must be unloaded and secured in gun cases. Loaded magazines may be in the trunk or any container that provides “separate enclosure” for the items. Magazine & gun may be in the same container as long as the magazine is in a separate, “snapped” compartment within that container.

During a traffic stop, a person must remain in his vehicle, keep his hands in plain sight and may not touch or attempt to grasp the handgun. He must also inform the officer that he is in possession of a handgun when the officer asks if he is carrying (upon demand). And firearms in a vehicle must not be accessible to children or anyone prohibited by law from possessing a firearm.

Oklahoma

Total prohibition

(+0, oil, cattle & guns – 3 staples that Okies can't do without)

Total freedom

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CHECKLIST

- *Standard firearms & ammo: no restrictions, except carry limited to ammo that is .45 or less
- *Semi-auto guns & high capacity magazines: no permit required for possession or sale
- *Machine guns & suppressors: ownership lawful per federal law compliance
- *Firearm law uniformity: preemption law, firearm laws uniform throughout state
- *Right of Self-Defense: NRA-model castle doctrine, *stand your ground* in public areas
- *Open carry: lawful in most public areas per recent passage of “constitutional carry”
- *Licensed concealed carry: licenses issued to residents only
- *Constitutional or “no permit required” concealed carry: yes – see below
- *Out-of-state permit recognition: automatic recognition of carry permits from all other states
- *Weapons allowed for licensed carry: carry limited to handguns .45 or less
- *Vehicle carry by non-permittees: loaded firearms may be carried anywhere in a vehicle; presence of a gun in a vehicle must be disclosed when demanded by law enforcement
- *Vehicle gun possession at colleges: lawful for any gun owner
- *Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools: Oklahoma permittee w/loaded handgun lawful
- *Duty to notify LEO of permit/carry status: upon demand of police officer
- *RV carry while “boondocking”: parking lot owners may *not* prohibit guns in vehicles – see p.9
- *State Parks: carry allowed in open areas, but not in any gov’t buildings
- *Restaurants serving alcohol: carry allowed while eating in dining areas – see p.3
- *Houses of Worship: gun carry O.K. unless premises is posted – see p.3
- *Hotels: subject to hotel policy enforcement – see p.7
- *Airports: carry prohibited in any government-owned terminal; carry in parking lots O.K. – see p. 9
- *Highway Rest Areas: carry prohibited in buildings, carry O.K. outdoors and in parking areas – see p. 7

VEHICLES

Oklahoma was opened to pioneer settlement after most of the West had already been “won.” This frontier connection is perhaps what inspired the Sooner State to enact “constitutional carry” in 2019. Despite an already friendly atmosphere for gun ownership, the carry options this new law provides the average citizen make the landscape for Okies and their visitors all the better.

Recognized permittees: Oklahoma still issues licenses to carry loaded handguns on foot or in a vehicle to residents who are 21 years or older (or 18-20 years old if member of armed forces) for 5 or 10 year terms. The state will recognize all out-of-state carry permits as well as any military ID issued to a member of the armed forces. Recognized permittees may carry *holstered* handguns (.45 or less) openly or concealed in most public areas except those places listed in the “all persons” section below.

Persons without recognized permits: Any law-abiding person 21 or older (or 18-20 if member or veteran of the armed forces) may carry a loaded firearm (handgun, rifle or shotgun) openly or concealed without a permit in most public areas (see “all persons”). Firearms may also be carried anywhere in a vehicle or boat. But during a traffic stop, a person must disclose the presence of a firearm when demanded by a police officer

Those exercising the “no permit required” option may not have prior violations involving illegal drug use, domestic abuse, stalking or aggravated assault. A recent law change now allows anyone to carry in restaurants serving alcohol as long as the person does not consume alcohol.

All Persons: Carry is prohibited to everyone in bars, sports arenas, casinos, K-12 schools, colleges & universities, technology centers, most government-owned buildings (including those at rest areas, state parks and airports), and posted private businesses. Outdoor events providing metal detectors at controlled entry points may also ban all gun carry. But if metal detectors are *not* in place, *concealed* handgun carry is O.K. Vehicle gun possession in parking lots for these areas is lawful. Wildlife refuges, parks, fairgrounds and recreational areas are O.K. for carry as long the carry does not occur within any buildings located on the site. And carry in a municipal zoo or park is limited to a *handgun* that is concealed.

Oklahoma prevents property owners from enforcing policies that restrict the carry of firearms and ammunition in vehicles parked on their lots. And entry into posted private businesses carries no criminal penalty unless one refuses to leave. Oklahoma’s preemption law prevents most local regulation of carry rights and even allows civil suits against localities that violate its provisions.

Oregon

Total prohibition (+4, hi-cap mag ban per 2022 referendum temporarily halted by courts)

Total freedom

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C H E C K L I S T

- *Standard firearms & ammo: permit required for purchase or transfer of firearms– see p. 2
- *Semi-auto guns & high capacity magazines: import & most possession of over 10 shot mags banned
- *Machine guns & suppressors: ownership lawful per federal law compliance
- *Firearm law uniformity: preemption law, but local rules for loaded gun carry possible
- *Right of Self-Defense: no NRA castle doctrine, *stand your ground* in public not codified
- *Open carry: lawful in most public areas, but some specified locations may be off-limits
- *Licensed concealed carry: licenses issued to residents & qualified nonresidents
- *Constitutional or “no permit required” concealed carry: no
- *Out-of-state permit recognition: no recognition of out-of-state carry permits
- *Weapons allowed for *licensed carry*: limited to handguns only
- *Vehicle carry by non-permittees: loaded firearms must be carried in plain view or securely encased in the trunk or storage compartment (local restrictions possible) – see below
- *Vehicle gun possession at colleges: subject to college policy – must be posted
- *Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools: subject to school board policy – must be posted
- *Duty to notify LEO of permit status: upon demand of police officer
- *RV carry while “boondocking”: lot owners may restrict, but law protects carry otherwise - p.9
- *State Parks: Oregon permittees may carry concealed handguns
- *Restaurants serving alcohol: permittees may carry while eating in dining areas – see p.3
- *Houses of Worship: gun carry O.K. unless premises is posted – see p.3
- *Hotels: subject to hotel policy enforcement – see p.7
- *Airports: carry prohibited in most airport terminals; car carry in parking lots O.K. – see p.9
- *Highway Rest Areas: Oregon permittee allowed carry in buildings; car carry O.K. for others – see p. 7



V E H I C L E S

Oregon politics are shifting the state’s once non-restrictive gun laws sharply to the left. The volatility of Portland, coupled with an increasingly progressive ruling class, is resulting in a newly evolving dystopia.

Oregon permittees: The state requires a license to carry a concealed handgun on one's person or in a vehicle. The sheriff of a person’s home county issues such permits to qualified persons 21 years or older for four year terms. Oregon will only grant licenses to nonresidents who live in bordering states and express a viable need for concealed carry in Oregon. Such permits are issued at the discretion of any local sheriff. Oregon does not recognize carry permits issued by other states. But Oregon permittees enjoy the freedom to carry in most public areas except schools & colleges (when posted), the state capitol and large airport terminals.

Persons without Oregon permits: A loaded handgun may be carried in a vehicle if it is in a visible belt holster. But any handgun that is readily accessible and hidden from view is prohibited. This would include guns kept in unlocked glove compartments, console boxes and under one's seat. Handguns secured in cases and stowed in the trunk are legitimate. If a vehicle has no trunk, a handgun may be kept in a *locked* glove compartment or console box as long as the key is not inserted in the lock. Carrying a concealed handgun in a motorcycle, ATV or snowmobile requires that the gun be either trigger locked or in a locked container. Long guns may be loaded and transported in closed containers or a vehicle’s trunk.

An RV owner may possess a loaded, concealed handgun while the RV is parked in a campsite and being utilized as a residence. But vehicle carry laws apply when the RV is on the road.

Oregon's preemption law allows localities to regulate the public carry of *loaded* firearms. Portland and other cities require guns carried in a public setting or private vehicle to be unloaded and in plain view or securely cased absent an Oregon license. And state law prohibits open carry by non-permittees in any “public building.” This would include K-12 schools, colleges, hospitals, the state capitol, local or state government offices, large airport terminals, city halls, rest areas and residences of elected state officials.

All Persons: Oregon requires an unattended firearm to be trigger-locked & secured in a locked container when not being carried by the owner. If the firearm is a handgun in an unoccupied vehicle, it must also be hidden from view. Oregon also prohibits all gun possession in court facilities and racecourses.

Import and most possession of over 10 shot magazines is prohibited. Some possession of magazines owned by residents prior to 12/22 allowed. But any import by visitors is prohibited. (*currently under court challenge*)

Pennsylvania

Total prohibition (+3, state supreme court rules preemption law is constitutional)

Total freedom

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- *Standard firearms & ammo: no permit required for possession or sale – see p.2
- *Semi-auto guns & high capacity magazines: no permit required for possession or sale
- *Machine guns & suppressors: ownership lawful per federal law compliance
- *Firearm law uniformity: preemption law, firearm laws uniform throughout state
- *Right of Self-Defense: NRA-model castle doctrine, *stand your ground* in public areas
- *Open carry: lawful in most public areas, some exceptions - see below
- *Licensed concealed carry: licenses issued to residents and nonresidents
- *Constitutional or “no permit required” concealed carry: no
- *Out-of-state permit recognition: automatic recognition for *vehicle carry* of handguns by nonresidents w/ out-of-state permits; conditional recognition for on-foot carry (see p.65)
- *Weapons allowed for *licensed carry*: limited to handguns and certain NFA registered weapons
- *Vehicle carry by non-permittees: handguns must be unloaded and securely locked in the vehicle trunk or rear storage area; rifles and shotguns must be unloaded and may be in the passenger compartment but should be cased
- *Vehicle gun possession at colleges: subject to college administrative policy
- *Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools: gun possession prohibited; but legal defenses exist
- *Duty to notify LEO of permit status: upon demand of police officer
- *RV carry while “boondocking”: parking lot owners may restrict gun carry by visitors – see p.9
- *State Parks: concealed handgun carry by recognized licensees permitted
- *Restaurants serving alcohol: permittees may carry while eating in dining areas – see p.3
- *Houses of Worship: gun carry O.K. unless premises is posted – see p.3
- *Hotels: subject to hotel policy enforcement – see p.7
- *Airports: carry allowed in non-sterile terminal areas and parking lots – see p.9
- *Highway Rest Areas: carry allowed in buildings and on grounds – see p. 7

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Travelers to Pennsylvania will find the state to have an even mix of urban and rural character. This contributes to a legal dichotomy where gun ownership is both respected and, in certain instances, heavily encumbered. A famous pundit once described Pennsylvania as a state where, “Philadelphia is on one side, Pittsburgh is on the other, and Alabama is in the middle.”

Recognized permittees: The state requires a license to carry a loaded handgun in a vehicle or concealed on or about one's person. The sheriff of a resident's home county issues such permits to persons 21 years or older for five year terms. Any sheriff's office may also issue a license to a nonresident who possesses a permit from his home state. But recent reports indicate only certain sheriffs are actually accepting applications from nonresidents. Any nonresident with a valid, out-of-state permit may carry a loaded handgun in his vehicle so long as he restricts his transport to the vehicle's interior. Concealed carry outside one's vehicle requires a license recognized by the Attorney General (see p. 65). Permittees may carry in most public areas except K-12 schools, courthouse (must be posted), the state capitol and mental hospitals.

Persons without recognized permits: Vehicle carry of any firearm by an unlicensed individual is strictly regulated. Handguns must be unloaded, cased and secured in the trunk or rear storage area. The weapons should also be separated from any ammunition. Travelers should be enroute to a vacation dwelling, gun range or residence unless they have a permit.

Open carry of a loaded handgun while on foot is allowed in most public areas except those prohibited to permittees (see above). The weapon should be in a visible holster and the carrier may not enter a vehicle with the gun. The courts have ruled that “absolute invisibility” is not required for a gun to be “concealed.” So beware. Preemption prevents most localities from regulating open carry. And police are aware of open carry's legal basis. But handgun carry within Philadelphia is limited to persons possessing valid, recognized licenses.

All Persons: Rifles and shotguns must be unloaded and should be secured in commercial cases or gun racks. Long guns may be transported in the passenger compartment but should remain unloaded regardless of whether a person possesses a carry permit. Licensed firearms carry only applies to handguns and certain short-barreled shotguns & rifles registered under the National Firearms Act.

Rhode Island

Total prohibition

(-5, "safe storage" required for all "unattended" firearms)

Total freedom

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*Standard firearms & ammo: no permit for possession; ammo & pistol sales need "blue card" – see p.2

*Semi-auto guns & high capacity magazines: restricted; over 10 shot magazines prohibited

*Machine guns & suppressors: personal ownership prohibited; bump stocks prohibited

*Firearm law uniformity: preemption law, firearm laws uniform throughout state

*Right of Self-Defense: no NRA-model castle doctrine, *duty to retreat* in public areas

*Open carry: prohibited in all public areas unless one has an attorney general-issued permit

*Licensed concealed carry: licenses issued to residents & nonresidents by local police or A.G.

*Constitutional or "no permit required" concealed carry: no

*Out-of-state permit recognition: no general recognition, some *limited* recognition (see below)

*Weapons allowed for *licensed* carry: limited to handguns only

*Vehicle carry by non-permittees: a carry permit issued by any state or locality is required for transportation of handguns *through* the state, otherwise McClure-Volkmer p.5 applies; unloaded rifles and shotguns may be transported without a permit in a vehicle

*Vehicle gun possession at colleges: subject to college administrative policy

*Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools: firearms must be unloaded and in locked containers

*Duty to notify LEO of permit status: upon demand of police officer

*RV carry while "boondocking": parking lot owners may restrict gun carry by visitors – see p.9

*State Parks: firearms carry prohibited; firearms must be unloaded and cased in vehicle

*Restaurants serving alcohol: permittees may carry while eating in dining areas – see p.3

*Houses of Worship: gun carry O.K. unless premises is posted – see p.3

*Hotels: statutory allowance for guest rejection or ejection for gun possession – see p.7

*Airports: carry allowed in non-sterile terminal areas and parking lots – see p. 9

*Highway Rest Areas: Rhode Island permittee carry allowed in building and on grounds – see p. 7



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Rhode Island's handgun carry laws reflect the restrictive attitude evident along much of the Northeast Coast. Carry is limited to those with a Rhode Island permit. Anyone else must surrender his rights at the state line.

Recognized permittees: The state requires a license to carry a handgun about one's person or in a vehicle. A resident may apply to his local police chief for a license. While a nonresident with a carry permit from another state may apply to any city's police chief. The licenses are valid for 4 years. The attorney general will also issue permits to nonresidents but will not require the possession of another state's permit. Locally issued permits require that the handgun be carried *concealed* while A.G.-issued permits allow open carry. An applicant must be at least 21 and able to certify that he is "qualified" to carry a handgun by demonstrating proficiency in firearms handling. Permittees may carry in most public areas except K-12 schools, state parks & forests.

Rhode Island will recognize any carry permit issued by another state or locality if the traveler restricts the transport of the handgun to his vehicle's interior (sec.11-47-8). He must also be passing through the state on a continuous journey with no intention of staying for any period. This would mean that even a one-day vacation within Rhode Island would not be allowed under this exception.

Persons without recognized permits: A handgun may only be transported in a vehicle if the weapon is unloaded, secured in a gun case and the ammunition is stowed in the trunk or outside storage compartment. If the vehicle has no trunk, the ammunition must be locked in a separate container. One must also be traveling between his home and business or going to or from a gun shop, gunsmith, repair facility or target range unless he can qualify as a traveler on a "through journey" (see p.5).

All Persons: A person may transport rifles and shotguns in a vehicle so long as the weapons and their magazines are unloaded. Rhode Island requires that any "unattended" firearm (including a handgun) be secured in a locked container or rendered inoperable with a trigger lock. This rule only applies when the owner is not in "close proximity" to the gun. Containment in *locked* commercial gun cases is recommended.

Rhode Island prohibits gun possession on K-12 school grounds. This applies to everyone except police & security officers and those who secure their unloaded firearms in locked containers in their vehicles.

Rhode Island recently banned all magazines over 10 shots from import and possession. No grandfather clause was included with the law. So even magazines possessed prior to its passage are prohibited.



South Carolina

Total prohibition (+10, permitless carry & no duty to inform – fist pumps for the Palmetto)

Total freedom

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CHECKLIST

- *Standard firearms & ammo: no permit required for possession or sale – see p.2
- *Semi-auto guns & high capacity magazines: no permit required for possession or sale
- *Machine guns & suppressors: ownership lawful per federal law compliance
- *Firearm law uniformity: preemption law, but localities may regulate open carry in certain public areas
- *Right of Self-Defense: NRA-model castle doctrine, *stand your ground* in public areas
- *Open carry: lawful in most public areas, but some local regulation may exist
- *Licensed concealed carry: licenses issued to residents and some qualified nonresidents
- *Constitutional or “no permit required” concealed carry: yes
- *Out-of-state permit recognition: conditional recognition of permits from other states (see p. 65)
- *Weapons allowed for licensed carry: limited to handguns only
- *Vehicle carry by non-permittees: loaded firearms may be carried anywhere in a vehicle; rifles & shotguns must be unloaded when visiting certain areas - see below
- *Vehicle gun possession at colleges: loaded handgun lawful; must be in *closed* compartment
- *Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools: South Carolina permittee w/loaded handgun in *closed* glove compartment, console box or trunk lawful
- *Duty to notify LEO of permit/carry status: upon demand of police officer
- *RV carry while “boondocking”: parking lot owners may restrict gun carry by visitors – see p.9
- *State Parks: handgun carry by any law-abiding adult 18 or older allowed
- *Restaurants serving alcohol: anyone may carry while eating in dining areas – see p.3
- *Houses of Worship: carry prohibited unless church leaders grant express permission – see p.3
- *Hotels: statutory allowance for guest rejection & “force of law” posting prohibitions – see p.7
- *Airports: carry prohibited if terminal is “publicly-owned”; car carry O.K. for permittees – see p.9
- *Highway Rest Areas: carry allowed in buildings and on grounds – see p. 7

VEHICLES

The passage of “permitless” carry has made a state known for its "southern" flavor very popular with visiting gun owners. The birthplace of the Confederacy is now more of a final destination than ever before.

Recognized permittees: South Carolina will issue a license to carry a handgun on or about one’s person. Permits are available at no cost to residents who are at least 18 years old for 5-year terms. A qualified nonresident who owns real property within the state is also eligible for a permit. Licenses from other states are recognized as long as that state requires permittees to pass a criminal background check and gun safety course. The out-of-state permittee must be a resident of the state where the permit was issued and may carry his handgun either openly or concealed. In a vehicle, this would include anywhere on his person or inside the vehicle. On foot, carry is O.K. in most public areas except the ones listed in the *All Persons* section below.

Persons without recognized permits: A loaded handgun may be carried openly or concealed by anyone 18 or older. In a vehicle, this would include anywhere in the passenger compartment or trunk. On foot, carry is allowed in most public areas except the ones listed below.

All Persons: Carry, with or without a permit, is prohibited in police & jail facilities, courthouses, polling places on election days, scholastic athletic events not related to firearms, medical facilities, preschool & day care facilities, meetings & most offices of local governments, churches (absent permission of owners), public transportation (buses) and all private businesses & special events that post signs against carry. Localities may prohibit open carry at certain outdoor events (parades, fairs etc.) that require permits. And entry into the private residence of another requires that person’s express permission.

Vehicle carry of loaded rifles and shotguns is lawful unless traveling to a state park, recreational area or a wildlife area during hunting season. All long guns must then be unloaded and secured in cases. Schools, universities & the state capitol are off-limits to gun possession unless one’s handgun is secured in a closed compartment of his locked vehicle. And any gun possession inside publicly owned buildings (except rest areas) is also prohibited. But a recent A.G. opinion indicated that carry outside one’s vehicle in the parking lots or garages of publicly owned buildings other than schools and colleges is lawful.

Open Carry is protected by statute. A person carrying a handgun in a snapped holster will not provide law enforcement with probable cause to search, detain or arrest that person.

South Dakota

Total prohibition (+3, *enhanced permittees granted qualified carry at K-12 schools*)

Total freedom

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- *Standard firearms & ammo: no permit required for possession or sale – see p.2
- *Semi-auto guns & high capacity magazines: no permit required for possession or sale
- *Machine guns & suppressors: ownership lawful per federal law compliance
- *Firearm law uniformity: preemption law, civil penalties & A.G. prosecution for local violations
- *Right of Self-Defense: NRA-model castle doctrine, *stand your ground* in public areas
- *Open carry: lawful in most public areas and generally accepted
- *Licensed concealed carry: licenses issued to residents only
- *Constitutional or “no permit required” concealed carry: yes – see below
- *Out-of-state permit recognition: automatic recognition for all out-of-state carry permits
- *Weapons allowed for *licensed carry*: limited to handguns only
- *Vehicle carry by non-permittees: loaded firearms may be carried anywhere in a vehicle
- *Vehicle gun possession at colleges: subject to college administrative policy
- *Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools: guns prohibited except at nonpublic schools
- *Duty to notify LEO of permit/carry status: upon demand of police officer
- *RV carry while “boondocking”: parking lot owners may restrict gun carry by visitors – see p.9
- *State Parks: concealed handgun carry by licensees & those exercising constitutional carry allowed
- *Restaurants serving alcohol: carry allowed while eating in dining areas – see p.3
- *Houses of Worship: gun carry O.K. unless premises is posted – see p.3
- *Hotels: subject to hotel policy enforcement – see p.7
- *Airports: carry allowed in non-sterile terminal areas and parking lots – see p.9
- *Highway Rest Areas: carry allowed in buildings and on grounds – see p. 7

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The 1960s witnessed a large influx of workers into South Dakota. Aside from boosting the local economy, these new arrivals participated in one of the most crucial defense projects of the post-war era. They were tasked with constructing hundreds of missile silos for the newly developed Minuteman ICBMs. These missiles were aptly named after the farmers who took on the British in 1775 Boston. But their presence also reflected the commitment South Dakota has always had for the values that make this country great. With the state’s 2019 enactment of “permitless carry”, South Dakota continues this tradition by advancing gun rights to its logical apex.

Recognized permittees: Licenses are issued to carry concealed handguns on one's person or in one's vehicle. Such permits are valid for 5 years and are only granted through county sheriffs to residents who are 18 years or older. South Dakota also offers *enhanced* permits to residents 21 and older that are valid for 5 years and offer the applicant better options for reciprocity when traveling. All permit fees have been eliminated.

Despite repealing its reciprocity statute, South Dakota, in practice, recognizes any out-of-state carry permit. Licensed concealed carry is lawful in most public areas except the prohibited ones in “All Persons” – (see below).

Persons without recognized permits: A license is not required to carry a concealed, loaded handgun in a vehicle or on foot. The state recently enacted permitless carry. So, while licenses (both regular and enhanced) are still issued to residents, they are not required for carry within the state.

Open carry of a loaded handgun on foot is allowed under most circumstances and more commonly practiced in the state's rural areas. South Dakota's preemption law prevents localities from regulating most aspects of gun carry, possession and transport. And recent amendments to the law provide for civil penalties and attorney general action against localities that violate it.

All Persons: Loaded rifles and shotguns may be carried anywhere in a vehicle. But all long guns should be in cases when passing through a game preserve or wildlife refuge. Motorcycle and snowmobile riders may now carry loaded firearms without possessing recognized permits. “Loaded” is defined as only having a round in the chamber (including any chamber in the cylinder of a revolver). Loaded magazines do not make the gun “loaded.”

And guns are prohibited to almost everyone in K-12 public schools, bars, courthouses & the state capitol. But carry at *nonpublic* K-12 schools is O.K. (*permittees only* per federal law). And South Dakota enhanced permittees may now carry concealed handguns in the state capitol if they provide notice to the Highway Patrol at least 24 hours prior to any visit and in K-12 public schools if they have written permission from school authorities.

Tennessee

Total prohibition (+2, pepper spray & stun gun possession allowed at schools & colleges) Total freedom

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- *Standard firearms & ammo: no permit required for possession or sale – see p.2
- *Semi-auto guns & high capacity magazines: no permit required for possession or sale
- *Machine guns & suppressors: ownership lawful per federal law compliance
- *Firearm law uniformity: preemption law, gun laws uniform; localities may be sued for violations
- *Right of Self-Defense: NRA-model castle doctrine, *stand your ground* in public areas
- *Open carry: lawful for permittees or those qualifying for permitless carry
- *Licensed concealed carry: licenses issued to residents and nonresidents
- *Constitutional or “no permit required” concealed carry: yes – see below
- *Out-of-state permit recognition: automatic recognition of all nonresidents with carry permits
- *Weapons allowed for *licensed* carry: limited to handguns only
- *Vehicle carry by non-permittees: loaded firearms may be carried anywhere in a vehicle or boat
- *Vehicle gun possession at colleges: lawful for any gun owner, code enforcement preempted
- *Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools: Tennessee permittee w/loaded handgun lawful
- *Duty to notify LEO of permit/carry status: upon demand of police officer
- *RV carry while “boondocking”: parking lot owners may *not* prohibit guns in vehicles – p.9
- *State Parks: concealed handgun carry by recognized licensees permitted
- *Restaurants serving alcohol: open or concealed carry allowed while eating in dining areas – see p.3
- *Houses of Worship: gun carry O.K. unless premises is posted – see p.3
- *Hotels: statutory allowance for guest rejection & “force of law” posting prohibitions – see p.7
- *Airports: carry allowed in non-sterile terminal areas & parking lots unless posted – see p. 9
- *Highway Rest Areas: carry allowed in buildings and on grounds unless posted – see p. 7

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Alvin York’s birthplace remains a great state for gun owners. With the enactment of permitless carry, a solid tradition of gun ownership coupled with good gun laws will provide travelers with an enjoyable, hassle-free visit.

Recognized permittees: Despite allowing permitless carry, licenses to carry loaded handguns openly or concealed are still granted to qualified persons. Enhanced permits are issued to residents who are 18 years or older (age set per court ruling) for 8-year terms or for life. “Concealed carry only” permits are also issued to residents for 5 year terms. These licenses require less training but have more restrictions as to where and how you can carry. Tennessee recognizes any out-of-state carry permit as long as the permittee is not a resident of Tennessee and restricts his carry to handguns only. Nonresidents will be issued 8-year permits only if they are *regularly employed* in the state. Most areas off-limits to carry, such as schools, colleges, civic centers & public recreation buildings, are posted with signage. In some areas such as public meetings, the signs may prohibit all firearms carry or allow “concealed carry only” by permittees. These prohibitions can include all property owned by the entity. “Open areas,” such as local parks & campgrounds, are lawful unless a school-sponsored activity is occurring in the immediate vicinity. Then permittee carry is not allowed.

Persons without recognized permits: Any person 18 or older (age set per court ruling) may carry a loaded handgun openly or concealed in most public areas. He is still prohibited from carrying in places that are off-limits to permittees. And certain “open areas” such as public parks, campgrounds and nature trails remain prohibited unless one has a permit. Permitless carriers may also be banned from buildings that allow concealed carry with a permit but ban all other carry modes. And anyone convicted of “stalking”(lifetime) or “driving under the influence”(once in 5 years or more than once in 10 years) may not exercise the permitless carry option.

Carry of loaded firearms (rifles, shotguns & handguns) is lawful anywhere in a motor vehicle or boat. The weapons may be in the glove compartment, console box, trunk, under the seat or secured in gun cases.

All Persons: Parking lot owners may not prohibit firearms in locked vehicles as long as the guns remain hidden from view. And employers may not penalize employees who keep guns in their vehicles under this law.

Localities may not regulate most aspects of gun possession and carry. And civil actions may result against cities that attempt to do so. But, despite this strong preemption, some contradictory signage may still exist.

And, while most gun carry at schools and colleges is prohibited, Tennessee allows pepper spray and stun guns to be possessed by adults (including staff & adult students) when visiting these locations.

Texas



Total prohibition

(+0, Lone Star lives up to its reputation when it comes to guns!)

Total freedom

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- *Standard firearms & ammo: no permit required for possession or sale – see p.2
- *Semi-auto guns & high capacity magazines: no permit required for possession or sale
- *Machine guns & suppressors: ownership lawful per federal law compliance
- *Firearm law uniformity: preemption statute, but cities may regulate long gun carry in certain areas
- *Right of Self-Defense: NRA-model castle doctrine, *stand your ground* in public areas
- *Open carry: lawful in most public areas as long as handgun is holstered – see below
- *Licensed concealed carry: licenses issued to residents and nonresidents
- *Constitutional or “no permit required” concealed carry: yes – see below
- *Out-of-state permit recognition: conditional recognition of permits from other states (see p. 65)
- *Weapons allowed for licensed carry: limited to handguns only
- *Vehicle carry by non-permittees: *concealed*, loaded handguns may be carried anywhere, visible I handguns must be *holstered*; loaded long guns (concealed or visible) may be anywhere
- *Vehicle gun possession at colleges: lawful for permittees and their firearms
- *Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools: Texas permittee w/loaded handgun lawful
- *Duty to notify LEO of permit/carry status: immediately upon official contact (ID request)
- *RV carry while “boondocking”: parking lot owners may restrict gun carry by visitors – see p.9
- *State Parks: concealed handgun carry by recognized licensees permitted per administrative code
- *Restaurant serving alcohol: persons may carry while eating in dining areas – see p.3
- *Houses of Worship: gun carry O.K. unless premises is posted – see p.3
- *Hotels: prohibited from barring gun possession by guests – may require guns remain *concealed* -see p.7
- *Airports: carry allowed in non-sterile terminal areas unless posted; car carry in parking lots O.K.
- *Highway Rest Areas: carry allowed in buildings and on grounds – see p.7

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Travelers to the Lone Star State will find its reputation as a gun owner’s paradise to be rightly deserved. And with the state’s recent adoption of constitutional carry, this gun loving spirit reflects the best of the West.

Recognized permittees: Despite no longer requiring a permit to carry a handgun, Texas still issues licenses to residents who are 18 or older (per court ruling) for an initial term of 4 years and a subsequent renewal term of 5 years. Texas will also issue permits to nonresidents and will recognize permittees from states whose laws mandate background checks of their licensees. A permittee must be at least 18, carry his handgun concealed or, if carried openly, in a holster, and produce his license when a policeman requests his ID. Places off-limits to carry include courts, polling places, racetracks, K-12 schools (including activities occurring on their properties), colleges (*concealed* carry O.K. w/restrictions), correctional & civil commitment facilities, mental hospitals & sporting events. General hospitals, nursing homes, amusement parks, bars & collegiate athletic events are off-limits if posted. Handguns secured in vehicles in parking lots for all these areas are lawful. And any business or church may post its property against open or concealed carry with signage.

Persons without recognized permit: Any person 18 or older (per court ruling) who is not prohibited from possessing a firearm in public and who has not been convicted of a violent offense (including some misdemeanors) in the past 5 years may carry a handgun openly or concealed. If carried openly, the weapon must be holstered and remain holstered during carry. Permitless carry is prohibited in all places prohibited to licensed carry (see above) with some important qualifications. General hospitals, nursing homes, amusement parks, bars and collegiate athletic events do **not** require signage to be prohibited to permitless carry. And open government meetings as well as most carry on college campuses (except for streets & parking lots) are prohibited to non-permittees, regardless of notice. Private venues that prohibit permitless carry are not required to post specific sign forms to prevent carry on their properties. Any “noticeable” sign is O.K. And vehicle carry of a loaded handgun is allowed if the weapon is concealed or, if visible, contained in a holster.

All Persons: Loaded long guns may be carried anywhere in a vehicle. But recent changes to Texas law now ban long guns in the areas prohibited to handguns. And cities may further regulate long gun carry in public parks, public meetings, political rallies and parades but may not require liability insurance for gun owners.

Hotels in Texas may not prevent guests from possessing guns in their rooms or vehicles. But they can require that guests carry the guns concealed or in cases when walking through common areas.



Utah

Total prohibition (+0, Mormon sensibility & frontier toughness make for good gun laws!) **Total freedom**



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- *Standard firearms & ammo: no permit required for possession or sale – see p.2
- *Semi-auto guns & high capacity magazines: no permit required for possession or sale
- *Machine guns & suppressors: ownership lawful per federal law compliance
- *Firearm law uniformity: preemption statute, civil penalties available for non-compliance
- *Right of Self-Defense: NRA-model castle doctrine, *stand your ground* in public areas
- *Open carry: lawful in most public areas for permittees and those 21 and older
- *Licensed concealed carry: licenses issued to residents and nonresidents
- *Constitutional or “no permit required” concealed carry: yes
- *Out-of-state permit recognition: automatic recognition of carry permits from all other states
- *Weapons allowed for licensed carry: include any lawful firearm
- *Vehicle carry by non-permittees: rifles and shotguns must be unloaded; handguns may be loaded and carried anywhere in a vehicle
- *Vehicle gun possession at colleges: lawful for any gun owner, some code enforcement
- *Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools: Utah permittee w/loaded handgun lawful
- *Duty to notify LEO of permit/carry status: upon demand of police officer
- *RV carry while “boondocking”: most parking areas O.K.; churches & govt. may restrict – p.9
- *State Parks: concealed handgun carry by permittees and those 21 yrs & older allowed
- *Restaurants serving alcohol: persons may carry while eating in dining areas – see p.3
- *Houses of Worship: carry prohibited if “proper notice”(see below) is provided by church – see p.3
- *Hotels: statutory allowance for guest rejection or ejection for gun possession – see p.7
- *Airports: carry allowed in non-sterile terminal areas & parking lots – see p. 9
- *Highway Rest Areas: carry allowed in buildings and on grounds – see p. 7

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Utah was founded by Mormon pioneers who relied heavily upon firearms for survival. The gun-wielding advantage of these early settlers decided many a battle with Indians and other hostiles. Modern Utah reflects this heritage with its recent adoption of “no permit required” constitutional carry.

Recognized permittees: Despite enacting permitless carry, Utah still issues licenses to carry loaded firearms on foot or in a vehicle. These permits allow for the open or concealed carry of any firearm, not just a handgun, and are issued by the Bureau of Criminal Identification to qualified persons 21 years or older for 5-year terms (provisional licenses for 18-20 year olds are also available). Utah grants licenses to both residents and non-residents and recognizes any valid, out-of-state permit. A permittee may carry in all public places except “secure areas” (courthouses, police stations, etc. - must be posted) and churches & private residences that provide notice. “Notice” may be in the form of signage, direct personal communication or publication in a newspaper or bulletin. Utah allows resident permittees who are 21 years & older to carry in K-12 schools. Carry is also allowed on college campuses. But some code enforcement by university officials is possible.

Persons without recognized permits: Anyone who is 21 years or older may carry a loaded firearm openly or concealed in most public areas. The person must be in “lawful possession” of the weapon and adhere to the same place restrictions as permittees with a few exceptions. Those without permits are also prohibited from carrying on K-12 or college grounds as well as inside the buildings of any pre-school or nursery school. But car carry is O.K. in these areas unless in violation of the “Gun-free” Federal law – see p.4

Loaded handguns may be carried anywhere in a vehicle. Under one's seat, in a glove compartment or within a console box is legitimate as long as the gun carrier either owns the vehicle or has the consent of the vehicle's owner. The person carrying must also be eighteen or older.

Long guns in a vehicle must remain unloaded. Utah defines rifles and shotguns as “unloaded” when their firing chambers contain no "live" rounds. The weapons' magazines may contain ammunition. Muzzle-loading firearms are loaded when capped or primed. Long guns may be kept anywhere in the car.

All Persons: Most property owners are prohibited from enforcing “no guns in vehicles” policies in their parking lots if the firearms remain locked in one's vehicle and secured from view. Government entities, churches and single-family homes are exempt from this provision. And K-12 schools are subject to the general law governing firearm possession on school grounds. Utah preempts local regulation of carry issues.

Vermont



Total prohibition

(-3, carry prohibited at polling places)

Total freedom

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- ***Standard firearms & ammo:** no permit required for possession or sale – see p.2
- ***Semi-auto guns & high capacity magazines:** possession, sale & import of over 10 shot long gun mags & over 15 shot pistol mags prohibited – some exceptions - see below
- ***Machine guns & suppressors:** lawful per federal law compliance; bump stocks prohibited
- ***Firearm law uniformity:** preemption statute, firearm laws uniform throughout state
- ***Right of Self-Defense:** no NRA-model castle doctrine; *duty to retreat* in public places
- ***Open carry:** lawful in most public areas and generally accepted
- ***Licensed concealed carry:** no licenses issued for concealed carry (license not required)
- ***Constitutional or “no permit required” concealed carry:** yes – see below
- ***Out-of-state permit recognition:** no official recognition needed – permit not required to carry
- ***Weapons allowed for licensed carry:** not applicable – no licenses issued
- ***Vehicle carry for all persons:** rifles and shotguns carried in a vehicle must be unloaded; handguns may be carried loaded and concealed anywhere in the vehicle
- ***Vehicle gun possession at colleges:** subject to college administrative policy
- ***Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools:** unloaded guns locked in cases lawful; per federal law, loaded handgun carry would require Vermont-issued permit; no such permit exists; therefore loaded carry would be illegal under the Gun Free School Zones Act
- ***Duty to notify LEO of permit/carry status:** N/A – permits not issued by state
- ***RV carry while “boondocking”:** parking lot owners may restrict gun carry by visitors – see p.9
- ***State Parks:** concealed handgun carry by any non-felon permitted
- ***Restaurants serving alcohol:** any non-felon may carry while eating in dining areas
- ***Houses of Worship:** gun carry O.K. unless premises is posted – see p.3
- ***Hotels:** subject to hotel policy enforcement & “force of law” posting prohibitions – see p.7
- ***Airports:** carry allowed in non-sterile terminal areas & parking lots – see p. 9
- ***Highway Rest Areas:** *concealed* carry allowed in buildings and on grounds – see p. 7



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Vermont is a proudly independent state whose laws have always reflected the values of its colonial heritage. And while current gun laws in the state are comparatively good, the recent influx of native New Yorkers has caused some definite concern. 2018 witnessed the passage of the state’s first major gun control initiative in years. This legislation not only created a qualified ban on magazines and bump stocks, it could also signal the beginning of some hard times ahead for Vermont’s gun owners.

Vermont does not require a license to carry a firearm. Persons may carry loaded handguns concealed or openly almost anywhere in the state. Vehicle carry is viewed in the same light as any other carry. A concealed, loaded handgun placed in a glove compartment, console box or briefcase is legitimate. A pistol carried directly on the person is also O.K. as long as the weapon is not carried with the avowed purpose of injuring someone.

Rifles and shotguns in a vehicle may be transported openly or secured in commercial gun cases. But due to conservation laws, long guns must remain unloaded.

Gun carry is prohibited in courthouses, school buildings, hospitals (must be posted), polling places (must be posted) and on the grounds of any "state institution." "State Institution" would include facilities such as prisons and mental hospitals as well as most buildings leased or owned by the state and under the control of the Dept. of Bldgs. (excluding universities). State Historic sites and highway rest areas limit carry to concealed guns only.

Vermont also prohibits possession of high capacity magazines (long gun magazines over 10 shots & handgun magazines over 15 shots) and “bump stocks.” Those magazines lawfully possessed prior to 4/11/18 by residents are exempt from prohibition as are any newly produced magazines being used by out-of-state residents for official shooting competitions held in the state. Any attached tubular magazines for .22 rimfire guns are also O.K. But high-capacity mags not fitting into an exemption are banned from possession, sale, transfer or import.

State preemption prevents localities from regulating the carry, possession or sale of guns. Cities may still control their discharge & use. But travelers can expect uniformity for the laws that most directly affect them.

And while the recent passage of a “safe storage law” does not directly affect carry, travelers should keep all firearms in an RV or other vehicle secured from child access.



Virginia

Total prohibition	(+0, pro-gun governor stems the tide of gun control – for now)										Total freedom
0	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	



CHECKLIST

- ***Standard firearms & ammo:** no permit required for possession or sale – see p.2
- ***Semi-auto guns & high capacity magazines:** “streetsweeper”-style shotguns prohibited; over 20 shot magazines prohibited to nonpermittees in certain urban public areas
- ***Machine guns & suppressors:** state registration required of machine guns; suppressor ownership lawful per federal law compliance; bump stocks prohibited
- ***Firearm law uniformity:** localities may regulate carry in many public areas; some counties may also restrict *loaded* long guns in vehicles
- ***Right of Self-Defense:** no NRA castle doctrine, *stand your ground* in public not codified
- ***Open carry:** lawful in most public areas, but localities may prohibit carry in some locations – see below
- ***Licensed concealed carry:** licenses issued to residents and nonresidents
- ***Constitutional or “no permit required” concealed carry:** no
- ***Out-of-state permit recognition:** automatic recognition of carry permits from all other states
- ***Weapons allowed for licensed carry:** limited to handguns only
- ***Vehicle carry by non-permittees:** loaded handguns may be carried in plain view or secured in the glove compartment or console box; rifles and shotguns may be kept in gun cases in the rear of the passenger compartment or trunk (for loaded long guns - see “all persons”)
- ***Vehicle gun possession at colleges:** college regulation through VA’s administrative code
- ***Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools:** Virginia permittee w/loaded handgun O.K.; gun should be unloaded and cased if permittee leaves vehicle
- ***Duty to notify LEO of permit status:** upon demand of police officer
- ***RV carry while “boondocking”:** parking lot owners may restrict gun carry by visitors – see p.9
- ***State Parks:** concealed handgun carry by recognized licensees permitted
- ***Restaurants serving alcohol:** permittees may carry while eating in dining areas – see p.3
- ***Houses of Worship:** carry prohibited if premises is posted, otherwise carry O.K. (per A.G. opinion) - p.3
- ***Hotels:** subject to hotel policy enforcement – see p.7
- ***Airports:** carry prohibited in passenger terminals; parking lots O.K. unless posted – see p. 9
- ***Highway Rest Areas:** carry prohibited in buildings; carry allowed on outdoor grounds – see p. 7



VEHICLES

Virginia has historically displayed a healthy respect for gun rights. But recent demographic changes make the state a “front and center” battleground in the fight to preserve the 2nd amendment.

Recognized permittees: Virginia requires a license to carry a handgun concealed about the person. Such permits are issued to both residents (through local circuit court) and nonresidents (through state police) for 5-year terms. Virginia recognizes permits from all other states as long as the permittee is at least 21 years old, possesses a state-issued photo ID, and did not previously have a Virginia permit issued to him revoked. Carry is lawful in most public areas except churches (if posted), courthouses, airports, private businesses that ban carry, executive & legislative branch offices w/ posted signage, the state capitol, any building owned or leased by Virginia (including rest areas), K-12 schools & sponsored event, most colleges & universities and public bldgs., parks & parades where carry is prohibited by local ordinance. Polling places are off-limits during voting hours.

Persons without recognized permits: A loaded handgun may be carried in a vehicle if the weapon is in plain view or secured in a container or vehicle compartment. “Vehicle compartment” would include a glove compartment, console box or trunk. A loaded handgun could also be kept in a briefcase or similar container situated anywhere in the vehicle, including about one’s person. “Container carry” applies only to handguns.

Open carry is allowed but may be subject to restrictions by local ordinance. And the state still prohibits non-permittees from carrying loaded center-fire firearms with capacities greater than 20 rounds in many urban areas.

All Persons: Localities may prohibit carry in parks & buildings they control as well as any permitted outdoor event such as a parade or demonstration. Postings must be present or the prohibition is unenforceable.

Long guns in vehicles are lawful if they are cased and stowed in the trunk or rear storage area. Long guns must remain unloaded on Dept. of Natural Resources property (conservation & wildlife management areas) and National Forest lands. And some counties may require long guns to be unloaded unless the guns are possessed for “personal safety” reasons in the course of one’s employment.

Washington



Total prohibition (-5, non-permittee carry further restricted in certain public areas)

Total freedom

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CHECKLIST

- ***Standard firearms & ammo:** no permit needed for possession; sales require proof of training – see p. 2
- ***Semi-auto guns & high capacity magazines:** hi-cap mags. & assault weapons banned from sale/import, residents who owned mags. before 7/1/22 & assault weapons before 4/25/23 O.K.
- ***Machine guns & suppressors:** personal ownership of machine guns & bump stocks prohibited; suppressor ownership lawful per federal law compliance
- ***Firearm law uniformity:** preemption statute, firearm laws uniform throughout state
- ***Right of Self-Defense:** no NRA castle doctrine, *stand your ground* in public not codified
- ***Open carry:** lawful in most public areas – see “all Persons” below
- ***Licensed concealed carry:** licenses issued to residents and nonresidents
- ***Constitutional or “no permit required” concealed carry:** no
- ***Out-of-state permit recognition:** conditional recognition of permits from other states (see p. 65)
- ***Weapons allowed for licensed carry:** limited to handguns only
- ***Vehicle carry by non-permittees:** handguns must be unloaded and secured in commercial gun cases; long guns must be unloaded
- ***Vehicle gun possession at colleges:** prohibitions enforced through administrative code
- ***Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools:** Washington permittee w/loaded handgun lawful while picking up or dropping off a student
- ***Duty to notify LEO of permit status:** upon demand of police officer
- ***RV carry while “boondocking”:** parking lot owners may restrict gun carry by visitors – see p.9
- ***State Parks:** concealed handgun carry by recognized licensees permitted
- ***Restaurants serving alcohol:** permittees may carry while eating in dining areas – see p.3
- ***Houses of Worship:** gun carry O.K. unless premises is posted – see p.3
- ***Hotels:** subject to hotel policy enforcement – see p.7
- ***Airports:** carry allowed in non-sterile terminal areas & parking lots unless posted – see p. 9
- ***Highway Rest Areas:** carry allowed in buildings and on grounds – see p. 7



VEHICLES

Washington's vast tracts of wilderness create a setting where gun ownership is quite common. But despite a history of relaxed gun laws, the state's shifting political winds are ushering in restrictions that will become more intrusive as time goes on. Visitors would be well-advised to enjoy this beautiful state while they still can.

Recognized permittees: A license is required to carry a loaded handgun concealed on one's person or in any personal vehicle or public transportation. Residents are issued permits through their *local* police or sheriff. Nonresidents may apply in person to *any* police or sheriff's office. Licenses are valid for 5 years. Washington recognizes permits from states that recognize Washington, require fingerprint-based background checks of their licensees & do not issue permits to persons under 21. A recognized permittee must be a nonresident & is limited to handgun carry only. He must also keep the weapon locked up & hidden from view if it is left in his vehicle. Carry is prohibited in courtrooms, police stations, bars, ballot counting & administrative hearing centers, K-12 schools, day care centers, mental health facilities, horse racetracks, outdoor music festivals and many colleges.

Persons without recognized permits: Handguns must be unloaded and secured in gun cases while in a vehicle. Loaded magazines may be kept in the vehicle as long as they are not inserted into any handgun.

While on foot, a non-permittee may carry a loaded, concealed handgun while hunting, fishing, camping, and target shooting. Open carry in most public areas is also O.K. But along with the prohibited areas for permittees, carry is illegal in zoos, aquariums, libraries & transit stations (bus stops). Carry may also be restricted by cities in stadiums and convention centers and is banned at any school board meeting. These local bans must be posted.

All Persons: Unloaded rifles and shotguns may be kept in gun racks or cases within a vehicle. Long guns are considered “loaded” only if the weapons' chambers are loaded or loaded magazines are attached to the guns. One may have loaded magazines nearby and still be lawful. Long guns in vehicles must be unloaded regardless of one's permit status. And all firearms, including pistols, carried in snowmobiles must be unloaded.

Open carry of any firearm is prohibited at demonstrations, the state capitol, polling places and meetings of local governing bodies (ie. city councils). This ban applies to anyone, including permittees. But *concealed* carry with a permit is O.K. in these areas. And over 10 shot mags & assault weapons may not be sold or imported.



West Virginia

Total prohibition (+0, beautiful mountains & fine people make for good gun laws!)

Total freedom

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CHECKLIST

- *Standard firearms & ammo: no permit required for possession or sale – see p. 3
- *Semi-auto guns & high capacity magazines: no permit required for possession or sale
- *Machine guns & suppressors: ownership lawful per federal law compliance
- *Firearm law uniformity: preemption law, but some restrictions in city-owned bldgs & recreation ctrs.
- *Right of Self Defense: NRA-model castle doctrine, *stand your ground* in public areas
- *Open carry: lawful in most public areas, but some localities may regulate this independently
- *Licensed concealed carry: licenses issued to residents & nonresidents
- *Constitutional or “no permit required” concealed carry: yes – see below
- *Out-of-state permit recognition: conditional recognition of permits from other states (see p. 65)
- *Weapons allowed for licensed carry: limited to handguns only
- *Vehicle carry by non-permittees: loaded handguns may be carried anywhere in a vehicle by persons 21 years and older; loaded long guns may be carried anywhere in a vehicle
- *Vehicle gun possession at colleges: permittee w/loaded, concealed handgun lawful
- *Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools: West Virginia permittee w/loaded handgun lawful; permittee must be at least 21 & lock gun in secure compartment when car is unoccupied
- *Duty to notify LEO of permit/carry status: upon demand of police officer
- *RV carry while “boondocking”: parking lot owners may *not* prohibit guns in vehicles – see p.9
- *State Parks: concealed handgun carry by recognized licensees permitted
- *Restaurants serving alcohol: carry allowed while eating in dining areas – see p.3
- *Houses of Worship: gun carry O.K. unless premises is posted – see p.3
- *Hotels: subject to hotel policy enforcement – see p.7
- *Airports: carry allowed in non-sterile terminal areas & parking lots – see p.9
- *Highway Rest Areas: carry allowed in buildings and on grounds – see p. 7

VEHICLES

West Virginia’s character was exemplified during the Civil War when many of her native sons took their privately owned arms to battle, making gun ownership a deeply engrained tradition. In 2016, the state reflected this history by enacting “permitless carry” for law-abiding persons 21 years and older.

Recognized permittees: Permits to carry concealed handguns are still issued by sheriffs to residents who are at least 18 years old. Provisional licenses for 18-20 year olds remain valid until the licensee turns 21. Licenses for persons 21 and older are valid for five years and are also issued to nonresidents. Licenses only allow the carry of handguns. And agreements with other states for recognition of their permits do exist. The permittee from the recognized state must be a non-resident and at least 21 years old. Permittees may carry loaded, concealed handguns in vehicles or on foot in most public areas. Some local ordinances may restrict carry in places such as municipal buildings. Other prohibited areas are listed in the “all persons” section below.

Persons without recognized permits: Anyone who is 21 years or older, a U.S. citizen or legal resident and not a criminal may carry a concealed weapon in a vehicle or on his person in most public areas. This “permitless carry” provision includes any lawful deadly weapon, not just handguns. Military personnel under 21 may carry concealed handguns, but not other weapons, without a license.

Open carry of a firearm on foot is allowed in most public areas that are not restricted by local ordinance. Cities may still restrict open carry on municipal property by posting signs. But parking lot storage is O.K. if the weapon remains concealed from view.

All Persons: Loaded shotguns and rifles may be transported anywhere in a vehicle. West Virginia recently dropped the requirement that long guns in a vehicle be unloaded & cased. But the “cased” requirement is still in effect for long guns carried on foot or in vehicles while in facilities and marked trails of state parks & forests.

Along with some universally restricted areas (such as federal buildings), carry is prohibited to everyone in courthouses, schools (includes vocational schools but private K-12 may set their own rules), the state capitol and any private or city property posting signs. Permittees may keep loaded handguns in their vehicles at the state capitol and on school grounds (see checklist). Most property owners may not prohibit guns in vehicles parked on their lots if the firearms are hidden from view and the vehicles remain locked. And permittees are allowed to carry *concealed*, loaded handguns in most buildings and outdoor areas of *state* college campuses.

Wisconsin



Total prohibition

(+0, great improvements, some minor tweaking required)

Total freedom

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- ***Standard firearms & ammo:** no permit required for possession or sale – see p. 2
- ***Semi-auto guns & high capacity magazines:** no permit required for possession or sale
- ***Machine guns & suppressors:** machine guns require approval of sheriff and federal law compliance; suppressor ownership lawful w/federal law compliance
- ***Firearm law uniformity:** preemption statute, firearm laws uniform throughout state
- ***Right of Self-Defense:** NRA-model castle doctrine, *stand your ground* in vehicle only
- ***Open carry:** lawful in most public areas and affirmed by statute and A.G. opinion
- ***Licensed concealed carry:** licenses issued to residents only
- ***Constitutional or “no permit required” concealed carry:** no
- ***Out-of-state permit recognition:** conditional recognition of permits from other states (see p. 65)
- ***Weapons allowed for licensed carry:** limited to handguns, stun guns and billy clubs
- ***Vehicle carry by non-permittees:** handguns may be loaded; long guns must be unloaded; no firearms may be concealed (see below)
- ***Vehicle gun possession at colleges:** lawful for any gun owner (permittee or non-permittee)
- ***Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools:** Wisconsin permittee must unload & encase gun
- ***Duty to notify LEO of permit status:** upon demand of police officer
- ***RV carry while “boondocking”:** parking lot owners may *not* prohibit guns in vehicles – see p.9
- ***State Parks:** concealed handgun carry by recognized licensees permitted
- ***Restaurants serving alcohol:** permittees may carry while eating in dining areas – see p.3
- ***Houses of Worship:** gun carry O.K. unless premises is posted – see p.3
- ***Hotels:** subject to hotel policy enforcement & “force of law” posting prohibitions – see p.7
- ***Airports:** carry allowed in non-sterile terminal areas unless posted; car carry in parking lots O.K.
- ***Highway Rest Areas:** carry allowed, but contradictory (and incorrect) postings possible – see p. 7

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Sportsmen visiting Wisconsin will enjoy the numerous wildlife areas set aside for hunting and fishing activities while tourists will find the temperate climate quite refreshing. With the 2011 passage of its concealed carry law, Wisconsin has become a much more inviting place for gun owners.

Recognized permittees: Wisconsin requires a license issued by the state’s Department of Justice to carry a concealed, loaded handgun. Such licenses are valid for five years and are only issued to Wisconsin residents who are at least 21 years old. Wisconsin will recognize carry permits from states that perform background checks on their licensees as long as the licensee is 21 years or older, not a Wisconsin resident and has a photo ID. A permittee may carry a handgun, either openly or concealed, in most public areas except law enforcement offices, mental health facilities, courthouses, K-12 schools and secure areas (marked by signage or security screenings). Colleges, local governments, special event promoters and most private businesses may post signs against carry within their buildings. But vehicles parked on their lots, and residential dwellings at colleges, are exempt from these prohibitions. And employers may not ban guns in permittee-employee cars.

Persons without recognized permits: Loaded handguns may not be concealed in any motor vehicle (includes ATVs and boats). Wisconsin courts have developed a strict definition of what constitutes “concealed.” Even having a gun on your front seat is prohibited. So, despite amending its law to allow handguns to be uncased and loaded, Wisconsin continues to restrict “open carry” in vehicles through a restrictive definition of “concealed.” Non-permittees with loaded handguns should keep the weapons stowed in the trunk or rear storage area where they are not within anyone’s immediate reach.

Open carry on foot is allowed in most public areas except those prohibited to permittees and businesses serving alcohol for consumption on the premises. The handgun must be visible and should be in a holster. Open carry is protected by statute. So disorderly conduct laws may not be applied to open carriers.

All Persons: Long guns in a vehicle must be unloaded in both the chamber and magazine. But loaded, unattached magazines may be kept anywhere in the vehicle.

Most parking lots are O.K. for firearm carry as long as the gun remains secured in one’s vehicle. Property owners’ right to prohibit carry only extends to buildings and not parking facilities.

Wyoming

Total prohibition (+0, the “cowboy state” lives up to its name when it comes to guns!) Total freedom

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- *Standard firearms & ammo: no permit required for possession or sale – see p.2
- *Semi-auto guns & high capacity magazines: no permit required for possession or sale
- *Machine guns & suppressors: ownership lawful per federal law compliance
- *Firearm law uniformity: preemption law, firearm laws uniform throughout the state
- *Right of Self-Defense: NRA-model castle doctrine, *stand your ground* in public areas
- *Open carry: lawful in most public areas and generally accepted
- *Licensed concealed carry: licenses issued to residents only
- *Constitutional or “no permit required” concealed carry: yes – see below
- *Out-of-state permit recognition: conditional recognition of permits from other states (see p. 65)
- *Weapons allowed for *licensed* carry: limited to handguns only
- *Vehicle carry by non-permittees: persons who are 21 years or older may carry loaded firearms anywhere in their vehicles
- *Vehicle gun possession at colleges: subject to college administrative policy
- *Vehicle gun possession at K-12 schools: Wyoming permittee w/loaded handgun lawful
- *Duty to notify LEO of permit/carry status: upon demand of police officer
- *RV carry while “boondocking”: parking lot owners may restrict gun carry by visitors – see p.9
- *State Parks: concealed handgun carry by persons 21 and older allowed
- *Restaurants serving alcohol: persons may carry while eating in dining areas – see p.3
- *Houses of Worship: gun carry O.K. unless premises is posted – see p.3
- *Hotels: subject to hotel policy enforcement & “force of law” posting prohibitions – see p.7
- *Airports: carry allowed in non-sterile terminal areas & parking lots – see p. 9
- *Highway Rest Areas: carry allowed in buildings and on grounds – see p. 7

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The “Cowboy State’s” reputation as “gun-friendly” territory was buttressed by its 2011 adoption of constitutional carry for Wyoming residents. The state recently extended this right to all law-abiding citizens 21 and older. Now even visitors can carry without a “permission slip” from the government.

Recognized permittees: Despite no longer requiring a permit to carry concealed, Wyoming still issues licenses to carry concealed, loaded handguns while on foot or in a vehicle. These permits are granted by the Attorney General through the sheriff of an applicant's home county for five-year terms to qualified residents 21 years or older. The state does not issue permits to nonresidents but will recognize permits from other states so long as they recognize Wyoming permits and issue licenses through a state agency. Recognized permittees may carry concealed handguns in most public places except police stations, detention facilities, governmental or legislative meetings, athletic events, K-12 schools, colleges & universities, bars, courtrooms, and the state capitol. And property owners may also post their grounds against gun carry under Wyoming trespass laws.

Persons without recognized permits: Any law-abiding person 21 years and older, may carry a loaded handgun concealed or openly in a vehicle. The weapon may be in a belt holster or displayed on the dashboard or passenger seat. It may be secured in a commercial gun case, glove compartment, or other container. The handgun may also be concealed on your person.

Open or concealed carry on foot is also O.K. in most public areas. As long as the person is 21 years or older and has no disqualifying criminal past, he may carry a handgun without a permit. He is still under the same “place” restrictions as permittees (see above). But any local regulation is preempted. So just be aware of the few restrictions existing under state law and your carry should be hassle-free.

All Persons: Anyone may transport loaded long guns in a vehicle. The weapons may be in gun racks, gun cases, on the seat or in the trunk. Wyoming does not specifically regulate the carry of loaded firearms in a vehicle. So as long as one qualifies for “constitutional” or “permitless” carry, your rifles & shotguns can be just about anywhere in your car. Similarly, long gun carry on foot is O.K. unless one carries in a prohibited area.

Travel to Canada and Mexico



Despite a common language and a somewhat similar heritage, Canada's legal treatment of firearms is a shocking reminder of just how different America's neighbor to the North remains. Canada prohibits the importation of any handgun without an Authorization to Transport (ATT). These ATTs are rarely issued to Americans and are given to Canadians on a highly discretionary basis. Travelers without an ATT who attempt to enter Canada with handguns will have their weapons confiscated, their vehicles impounded and could face prosecution. Securely casing the handgun and stowing it in the trunk will not prevent seizure. Mere possession of a handgun anywhere in a vehicle without an ATT is illegal.

Most semi-automatic military pattern firearms are also prohibited from importation. The Canadian parliament enacted a series of draconian gun laws that effectively ban almost every weapon that looks even remotely military. And in 2020 this ban was extended to include AR-15s and other military-pattern rifles that were not directly affected by the initial law. M1 Garands are still exempt from this general prohibition and treated like standard sporting rifles. But the importation of most military pattern weapons as well as any Class III firearms (machine guns, short barreled rifles and short barreled shotguns) is strictly prohibited. And over 5 shot magazines for center-fire long guns as well as over 10 shot magazines for center-fire pistols are banned from entering the country.

Most individuals may only bring those rifles and shotguns classified as "sporting" into the country. Sporting weapons are defined as "regular sporting rifles or shotguns with barrels over 18.5 inches and longer than 26 inches in overall length." A Non-Resident Firearms Declaration Form is now required for importation. Such forms must be completed in triplicate before a traveler reaches the Canadian border but should not be signed until arriving at the port of entry. These permits cost \$25.00 and are valid for 60 days. Travelers should contact Canadian authorities at **1-800-731-4000**, www.rcmp.gc.ca, **Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Canadian Firearms Program, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0R2** to receive copies of these forms.

Upon reaching the border, you should have your firearm unloaded and separate from any ammunition. The weapon should also be in a gun case that is hidden from view or stowed in the trunk. A secure locking device, such as a trigger or cable lock, must be in place so the weapon cannot be fired. And, if left unattended, the vehicle must be locked. If asked by Customs for a reason why you are transporting a firearm into the country, the traveler should respond that he intends to engage in hunting or officially-sanctioned target competition. Personal defense is not a reason for firearm possession in Canada.

Upon returning to the U.S., you should have proof that the firearms you took into Canada are yours and that you are not importing new firearms into the country. Customs officials recommend a purchase receipt, bill of sale, household inventory list, packing list or a Customs Form 4457 completed prior to your trip. Some customs officials will also accept the Canadian "firearms declaration form" as proof that you owned the gun prior to entering Canada.

Travel to Mexico with firearms is not recommended. Possession of most firearms as well as ammunition is illegal. As Marine Sgt. Andrew Tahmooressi found to his horror, travelers who visit Mexico with firearms are arrested and forced to languish in prison until the intervention of U.S. authorities secures their release. Mexican law presumes your guilt. In other words, once you are arrested, you are guilty until proven innocent. Special permits may be obtained to bring hunting rifles into the country. Contact the Mexican consulate for information at **(202) 736-1000**.

Contact Agencies

Attorney General of Alabama
501 Washington Ave.
Montgomery, AL 36104
(334) 242-7300
www.alabamaag.gov

Alaskan State Police
5700 E. Tudor Road
Anchorage, AK 99507
(907) 269-0392
dps.alaska.gov

Arizona Dept. of Public Safety
P.O. Box 6488
Phoenix, AZ 85005
(602) 256-6280
www.azdps.gov

Arkansas State Police HQ
1 State Police Plaza Drive
Little Rock, AR 72209
(501) 618-8000
www.asp.state.ar.us

California Bureau of Firearms
P.O. Box 820200
Sacramento, California 94203
(916) 210-2300
www.oag.ca.gov

Colorado Bureau of Investigation
690 Kipling St. – Ste. #3000
Lakewood, CO 80215
(303) 239-4201
cbi.colorado.gov

Connecticut Dept. / Public Safety
1111 Country Club Road
Middletown, CT 06457
(860) 685-8290
www.ct.gov/despp

Attorney General of Delaware
820 North French Street
Wilmington, DE 19801
(302) 577-5039
attorneygeneral.delaware.gov

Washington Metro Police
441 – 4th St. NW – Room 550 S.
Washington D.C. 20001
(202) 727-4275
www.mpd.cdc.gov

Florida Division of Licenses
P.O. Box 6687
Tallahassee, FL 32314 6687
(850) 245-5691
www.fdacs.gov

Attorney General of Georgia
40 Capitol Square SW
Atlanta, GA 30334
(404) 458-3600
www.law.ga.gov

Attorney General of Hawaii
425 Queen Street
Honolulu, HI 96813
(808) 586-1500
www.ag.hawaii.gov

Attorney General of Idaho
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720
(208) 334-2400
www.ag.idaho.gov

Illinois State Police
800 S. 7th St. - #400-M
Springfield, IL 62703
(217) 782-7980
isp.illinois.gov

Indiana State Police
100 N. Senate Ave. / N302
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 232-8264
www.in.gov/isp

Iowa Dept. of Public Safety
215 East 7th Street, 4th FL.
Des Moines, IA 50319
(515) 725-6230
www.dps.state.ia.us

Attorney General of Kansas
120 SW 10th Ave. – 2nd Floor
Topeka, KS 66612
(785) 291-3765
www.ag.ks.gov

Kentucky State Police
919 Versailles Rd.
Frankfort, KY 40601
(502) 782-1800
www.Kentuckystatepolice.org

Louisiana State Police / CHP
P.O. Box 66375
Baton Rouge, LA 70896
(225) 925-4867
www.lsp.org

Maine Dept. of Public Safety
45 Commerce / State House 164
Augusta, ME 04333
(207) 624-7210
www.maine.gov/dps

Maryland State Police
1111 Reisterstown Rd.
Pikesville, MD 21208
(410) 653-4500
www.mdsp.maryland.gov

Firearms Bureau / Mass.
200 Arlington St. – Suite 2200
Chelsea, MA 02150
(617) 660-4782
www.mass.gov/firearms-services

Michigan State Police
P.O. Box 30634
Lansing, MI 48909
(517) 284-3700
www.michigan.gov/msp

Minnesota Dept. of Public Safety
445 Minnesota St.
St. Paul, MN 55101
(651) 201-7000
www.dps.mn.gov

Mississippi Hwy. Patrol
P.O. Box 958
Jackson, MS 39205-0958
(601) 987-1212
www.dps.state.ms.us

Attorney General of Missouri
207 West High St., P.O. Box 899
Jefferson City, MO 65102
(573) 751-3321
www.ago.mo.gov

Attorney General of Montana
215 N. Sanders / P.O. Box 201401
Helena, MT 59620 1401
(406) 444-2026
www.dojmt.gov

Nebraska State Police
4600 Innovation Dr.
Lincoln, NE 68521
(402) 471-4545
www.statepatrol.nebraska.gov

Nevada Dept. of Public Safety
333 W. Nye Lane - #100
Carson City, NV 89706
(775) 684-6262
rccd.nv.gov

New Hampshire State Police
33 Hazen Drive – Room 106
Concord, NH 03305
(603) 223-3873
nhsp.dos.nh.gov

New Jersey State Police
P.O. Box 7068
W. Trenton, NJ 08628
(609) 882-2000
www.njsp.org

New Mexico Dept. of Public Safety
6301 Indian School Rd. NE - #310
Albuquerque, NM 87110
(505) 841-8053
dps.nm.gov

New York State Police
1220 Washington Ave. Bldg. 22
Albany, NY 12226
(855) 529-4867
www.troopers.ny.gov

North Carolina A.G.
9001 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-9001
(919) 716-6400
www.ncdoj.gov

North Dakota BCI-CWL
P.O. Box 1054
Bismarck, ND 58502
(701) 328-5523
www.attorneygeneral.nd.gov

Ohio Attorney General
30 East Broad St. – 14th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215 3428
(800) 282-0515
www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov

Oklahoma B of I
6600 N. Harvey
Oklahoma City, OK 73116
(405) 879-2690
www.ok.gov/osbi

Oregon Attorney General
1162 Court St. NE
Salem, OR 97301
(503) 378-4400
www.doj.state.or.us

Pennsylvania Attorney General
16th Floor / Strawberry Square
Harrisburg, PA 17120
(717) 787-3391
www.attorneygeneral.gov

Rhode Island A. G.
150 S. Main St.
Providence, RI 02903
(401) 274-4400
www.riag.ri.gov

South Carolina (SLED)
P.O. Box 21398
Columbia, SC 29221
(803) 896-7015
www.sled.sc.gov

South Dakota Secretary of State
500 E. Capitol Ave. – Suite 204
Pierre, SD 57501 5070
(605) 773-5004
www.sdsos.gov

Tennessee DPS
P.O. Box 23710
Nashville, TN 37202
(615) 251-8590
www.tn.gov/safety

Texas Dept. of Public Safety
P.O. Box 4087
Austin, TX 78773
(512) 424-7293
dps.texas.gov

Utah BCI
4315 South 2700 West - #1300
Taylorsville, UT 84129
(801) 965-4445
bci.utah.gov

Vermont State Police
45 State Drive
Waterbury, VT 05671
(802) 244-8727
www.vsp.vermont.gov

Virginia State Police
P.O. Box 27472
Richmond, VA 23261 7472
(804) 674-2000
vsp.virginia.gov

Washington Attorney General
P.O. Box 40100
Olympia, WA 98504
(360) 753-6200
www.atg.wa.gov

West Virginia A.G.
Capitol Bldg. 1, #26E
Charleston, WV 25305
(304) 558-2021
www.ago.wv.gov

Wisconsin Attorney General
P.O. Box 7857
Madison, WI 53703
(608) 266-1221
www.doj.state.wi.us

Wyoming DCI
208 S. College Drive
Cheyenne, WY 82002
(307) 777-7181
<http://wyomingdci.wyo.gov/>

Reciprocity, Recognition & Permitless Carry

Constitutional or “Permitless Carry” States

Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, West Virginia and Wyoming allow “on foot” concealed carry without a permit. (for limits – see text).

Automatic Recognition States

Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Alaska, Florida*, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan*, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio**, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia recognize all other states but may limit recognition to residency requirements as noted by (*) or (**) or (). (see bottom of page)

Conditional Recognition / Reciprocity States

The states listed below recognize other states on a state-by-state basis. Interpretations of reciprocity statutes by state administrators are the basis for this list. As always, any bureaucratic decision is subject to change. Travelers should verify the status of their permits by visiting www.gunlawguide.com or using the state contacts on pages 63 & 64. The list below is based on information received from the various state agencies on December 1, 2024. **States not listed below or in the automatic recognition or constitutional carry paragraphs above do not recognize any out-of-state permits.**

Colorado* recognizes permits from

Update at www.gunlawguide.com

Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming (*must be 21 or older*)

Delaware recognizes permits from

Update at www.gunlawguide.com

Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Idaho (enhanced permit) Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota (enhanced permits), Tennessee, Texas, Utah, West Virginia

Louisiana recognizes permits from

Update at www.gunlawguide.com

Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming (*must be 21 or older*)

Maine* recognizes permits from

Update at www.gunlawguide.com

Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Utah, Virginia, Wyoming

*States with this star only recognize permittees who are residents of the state where the permit was issued. States that are UNDERLINED will not recognize out-of-state permits held by their residents.
**Ohio recognizes some, but not all, out-of-state permits held by Ohio residents – see p. 46
North Dakota issues Class 1 and Class 2 licenses. This list encompasses Class 1 licenses only.

Minnesota *recognizes permits from*

Update at www.gunlawguide.com

Alaska, California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Idaho (enhanced permits), Illinois, Kansas (standard permits), Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Montana (enhanced permits), Nebraska, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Dakota (enhanced permits), West Virginia (regular permits) **(must be 21 or older)**

Montana *recognizes permits from*

Update at www.gunlawguide.com

ALL STATES that issue permits **EXCEPT** Delaware, Hawaii, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, District of Columbia

Nebraska *recognizes permits from*

Update at www.gunlawguide.com

ALL STATES that issue permits **EXCEPT** Alabama, Delaware, Georgia, Idaho (regular permit), Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Washington, South Dakota (regular permit) **(21 or older)**

Nevada *recognizes permits from*

Update at www.gunlawguide.com

Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Idaho (enhanced permits), Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi (enhanced permits), Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, South Carolina, South Dakota (enhanced permits), Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

New Hampshire *recog. permits from*

Update at www.gunlawguide.com

Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, Mississippi, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Wyoming, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia,

New Mexico *recognizes permit from*

Update at www.gunlawguide.com

Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Kansas, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota (enhanced permit only), Texas, Virginia, Wyoming **(must be 21 or older)**

North Dakota* *recognizes permits from*

Update at www.gunlawguide.com

Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming

Pennsylvania* *recognizes permits from*

Update at www.gunlawguide.com

Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho (enhanced permits), Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah (excludes provisional permits), West Virginia (regular permits), Wisconsin, Wyoming **(must be 21 or older)**

***States with this star only recognize permittees who are residents of the state where the permit was issued. States that are UNDERLINED will not recognize out-of-state permits held by their residents.**
****Ohio recognizes some, but not all, out-of-state permits held by Ohio residents – see p. 46**
North Dakota issues Class 1 and Class 2 licenses. This list encompasses Class 1 licenses only.

South Carolina* *recog. permits from*

Update at www.gunlawguide.com

Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho (enhanced permits), Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi (enhanced permits), Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota (enhanced permits), Texas, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Wyoming (*list under review by SLED – 12/1/24*)

Texas *recognizes permits from*

Update at www.gunlawguide.com

ALL STATES that issue permits **EXCEPT** D.C, Maine, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Oregon, Rhode Island (local issued permits, AG. Permits O.K.)

Washington *recognizes permits from*

Update at www.gunlawguide.com

Idaho (enhanced permits only), Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, Montana (enhanced permits), North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota (enhanced permittees who are 21 or older, Utah (*must be 21 or older*))

West Virginia *recognizes permits from*

Update at www.gunlawguide.com

Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming (*must be 21 or older*)

Wisconsin *recognizes permit from*

Update at www.gunlawguide.com

Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida (permits issued to non-residents only), Georgia, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, Missouri (no provisional licenses), Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma (permits issued on or after 10/1/18), Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota (enhanced & Gold permits) Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia (non-resident permits only), Washington, West Virginia (no provisional licenses), Wyoming, Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands (*must be 21 or older*)

Wyoming *recognizes permits from*

Update at www.gunlawguide.com

Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin

These lists are taken from official sources at time of printing and may be subject to bureaucratic error by the state agency administering the list. Check www.gunlawguide.com for updates throughout the year.

- and -

This list encompasses “regular” permits for the states covered unless otherwise noted. Coverage for Tennessee permits only includes the “enhanced” licenses and not the “concealed carry only” licenses.

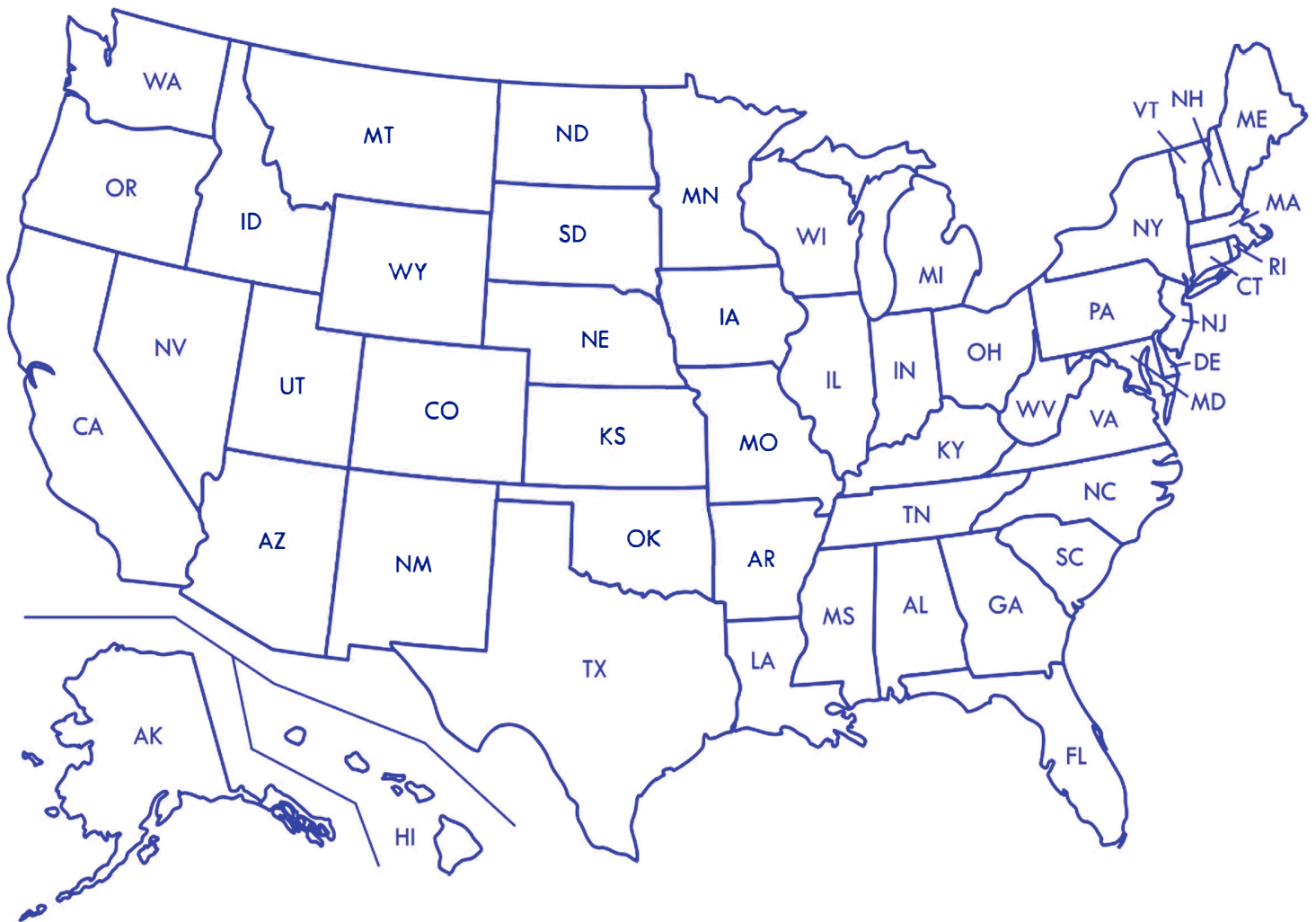
*States with this star only recognize permittees who are residents of the state where the permit was issued.

States that are **UNDERLINED** will not recognize out-of-state permits held by their residents.

**Ohio recognizes some, but not all, out-of-state permits held by Ohio residents – see p. 46

North Dakota issues Class 1 and Class 2 licenses. This list encompasses Class 1 licenses only.

Use a colored pencil to shade the states where your permit is valid



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**Traveler's Guide
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The author is an attorney in private practice in Covington, Kentucky. He has written several academic studies on the Second Amendment including ***“The Right Most Valued by Freeman: The Origins and Historical Development of the Citizen’s Right to Keep and Bear Arms”*** which was a winner in a legal writing contest sponsored by the National Rifle Association. Along with his law practice, he operates a Class III firearms business and is active in the political fight to preserve the citizen’s right to keep and bear arms. The “Traveler’s Guide” was inspired by the author’s own need to have a concise, yet accurate, summation of state transport and carry laws to reference during his vacation travels across America.

